

So long, Woody
& Happy Birthday,
Myrna
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Summer 2016 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

MAC NEWS

MAC hires Jenifer Alger as new CFO

The Montana Arts Council recently hired Jenifer Alger as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). She replaces Carleen Layne, who held that position for the last 38 years.



Jenifer Alger

Alger has a bachelor's degree in business administration with an accounting emphasis from Montana State University, and is a huge fan of the Bobcats, which you can easily tell by stepping into her office. She started her career with the State of Montana as an income-tax auditor for the Department of Revenue and after eight years moved on to become a budget analyst for the Department of Administration.

A few short years later she accepted the accountant position with the State Information Technology Services Division within the Department of Administration and eventually became chief of the Financial Management Services Bureau, a position she's held for the last 10 years.

"We are so excited to have Jenifer join us," says Arni Fishbaugh, executive director of the Montana Arts Council. "Her experience in other state agencies provides her with the expertise to deal with the complexities of financial matters within, and unique demands placed on, our small agency."

"The state auditors frequently tell us that our agency, despite its size, is very complicated. Our CFO handles a myriad of issues that, in other agencies, would be dealt with by many other departments and delegated to other staff. In our place, Jenifer is everything rolled into one."

Fishbaugh notes that MAC's new CFO is from Butte, "so she's undaunted by the challenge."

"Those of us in the office who are Grizzlies are granting her dispensation for her Bobcat mania, at least for now," she adds.

Alger's email is jeniferalger@mt.gov and you can reach her at 406-444-6489.

Deadline Aug. 1 for Cultural Trust grants

Cultural Trust guidelines are now posted on the Montana Arts Council's website, art.mt.gov. The application deadline is Aug. 1, 2016, for the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2019 grant period.

In 1975, the Montana Legislature set aside a percentage of the Coal Tax to restore murals in the Capitol and support other cultural and aesthetic projects. This unique funding source forms the Cultural Trust, with grant money derived from interest allocated every two years.

Applications must be for cultural and aesthetic projects, including but not limited to the visual, performing, literary and media arts, history, archaeology, folklore, archives, collections, research, historic preservation and the construction or renovation of cultural facilities.

Applications must be made online. For information and guidelines, visit art.mt.gov.

NEA visits Montana

By Cinda Holt
Business Development Specialist

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu got a wonderful dose of Montana in March when she and her staff spent three days with us. Our visitors included the NEA chairman, Laura Scanlan, State and Regional Director/Partnership Team Leader; Winona Varnon, Deputy Chairman for Management and Budget; Kathryn Carter, Consultant/Senior Associate Visual Arts Division; and Marcy Hinand, Consultant to the Center for Cultural Innovation and Creativz Project Manager.

Montana was one of 10 locations across the nation that the NEA selected to host a roundtable discussion as part of its initiative "Creativity Connects" that looks at how the arts contribute to the nation's ecosystem. This initiative not only celebrates the NEA's 50th anniversary, but also investigates the ways in which support systems for artists are changing all across the country.

The roundtable participants who came together in Helena were selected by the NEA to represent diverse points of view and included: **Tom Borrup**, Community Planning Consultant and Director of Arts and Cultural Leadership Program, University of Minnesota; **George Everett**, Executive Director, Mainstreet Uptown Butte, Inc; **Olivia Everett**, Creative Director, Mainstreet Uptown Butte, Inc; **Frank Finley**, Artist and Professor, Salish Kootenai College; **Tim Holmes**, Visual Artist, Tim Holmes Studio; **Sheri Jarvis**, Director, Montana Artrepreneur Program; **Vaughan Judge**, Director, Montana State University



Meeting with the Governor (left to right): Cinda Holt, Arni Fishbaugh, Meg O'Leary, Jane Chu, Governor Steve Bullock, Cyndy Andrus, Tracy Stone-Manning and Laura Scanlan.

(Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office)

School of Art; **Steven Lee**, Executive Director, Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts; **Tracy Linder**, Visual Artist, Montana Arts Council member; **Michael McGill**, Executive Director, Missoula Children's Theatre; **Laura Millin**, Executive Director, Missoula Art Museum; **Jack Nickels**, Project Manager, ArtSpace; **Gita Saedi Kiely**, Executive Director, Big Sky Film Institute; and, **Janaina Vieira-Marques**, Teaching Artist.

See NEA Visits Montana on page 19

New federal labor rule could cause "operational anxiety"

Rule requires overtime on ALL employees making \$47,475 or less per year

The U.S. Labor Department recently announced overtime final regulations that, when they go into effect on Dec. 1, 2016, will mean most employees earning less than \$47,500 per year will be entitled to overtime compensation, regardless of whether they are currently classified as executive, administrative, or professional (white-collar) workers.

"When we consider the new regs and the impact on staffing and budgets, many nonprofit leaders in Montana have a sense of moral support but operational anxiety," said Liz Moore, head of the Montana Nonprofit Association. "We had hoped the new overtime threshold would be based on the state wage base rather than a one-size-fits-all national approach. Now we have to switch our thinking from advocacy to implementation."

See New Labor Rule on page 18

Sean Chandler joins arts council

Sean Chandler, an accomplished artist and educator from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, was recently appointed to the Montana Arts Council by Governor Steve Bullock. His term runs through February 2020.

"The Montana Arts Council is so pleased to have Sean as our new member," said Executive Director Arni Fishbaugh. "He is an incredible teacher and artist. His knowledge of Indian traditional ways will add important context to the council's future activities."

She noted that Chandler has capably served as a member of the Cultural and Aesthetics Advisory Committee for Cultural Trust grants. "We have seen how knowledgeable and thoughtful he is, so we know he will fit right into the



Sean Chandler

strong arts advocacy culture that exists of our council currently."

His replaces Youpa Stein, who joined the arts council in 2005. "Youpa has been of enormous service to the council throughout her long tenure. She has been our 'go-to' person on all arts and healthcare issues," said Fishbaugh. Over the past decade, Stein has served on many committees and chaired several grant panels.

"Youpa's insights, her mindfulness and her expertise as both a nonprofit arts leader and an individual artist gave her many unique perspectives that helped us plot our course,"

Fishbaugh said. "She will be missed so very much!"

See Sean Chandler on page 2



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Sign up for MAC's eNews

Between the quarterly issues of the *State of the Arts*, our staff publishes four separate e-newsletters with opportunities and information:

- Artists' email newsletter
- Arts Educators' email newsletter
- Arts Organizations' email newsletter
- Public Artists' email newsletter

If you'd like to sign-up for one or more of these, please offer us your contact information and what you'd like to receive at: art.mt.gov/resources/resources_soasubscribe.asp or send us an email at: mac@mt.gov.

ARNI'S ADDENDUM

Arlynn Fishbaugh, Executive Director
afishbaugh@mt.gov



"The last little pickle on the plate"

This is my penultimate edition of Arni's Addendum before my retirement Sept. 30. There have been so many remarkable experiences during my almost 24 years on the job. One of my favorite parts of this job has been hearing the memorable things people have said along the way. I kept a little list.

I have always wanted to share these pearls with all of you who read *State of the Arts*, and I thought this would be the perfect opportunity!

You may have heard some of these before, but they were all new to me and caused raucous laughter or serious consideration. Some were made while we were going through some political or budget nightmare. Others were offhand comments made over coffee, a beer or at a staff meeting. Here they are:

"Eventually you have to stop exploring and start the killing game."

– Mark Moore, Harvard professor (our guru in all the public value training we received during our Wallace Foundation START grant in the early 2000s)

"He's just a bubble off of plumb."

"Don't you know that all theater sound men are deaf?"

– Tom Webster, University of Montana, July 2003

"If you can't change it, ignore it."

– Keith Colbo, former lobbyist, 2005

"That guy could charm the rattle off of snakes."

"Sometimes they're not even aiming and they shoot you!"

– Cultural Advocacy chairman Paul Stahl, speaking about working with the legislature

"We'll just have to wait to see who blinks."

– Former lobbyist Keith Colbo

"Well, you know what will happen ... snakes never blink."

– Paul Stahl, March 2005

"Take two beers and call me in the morning."

– Former MAC Accountant Carleen Layne after some legislative disappointment

"You people at the arts council are always the last little pickle on the plate!"

– Rep. Stan Fisher, Whitefish, April 2003

"It's like getting into a pissing match with a skunk."

– Paul Stahl, talking about some legislative situation

"He's dumber than 100 head of sheep."

– Paul Stahl again

"He was the one who kept taking his teeth out at the wedding."

– Staff member Kristin Burgoyne, talking about one of her family members

"There's joy in Mudville tonight. It was fun to be us!"

– Carleen Layne, after we successfully increased our funding in the last minute of the last hour of the last day of the session one biennium

Senator Tom Beck to Rep. Steve Vick, 1997: "Do you have a pulse?" Rep. Vick: "I try not to."

– During the 1997 nightmares when certain legislators were trying to eliminate the arts council

"I'm like an old steer. I just keep trying."

– Former council member Rick Halmes, Billings

"... The feckless craven aspiration of the authorizers."

– Harvard Professor Mark Moore teaching us about building public value, November 2005

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

– Former Idaho Arts Commission director and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies chairman Dan Harpole, 2005 (quoting Samuel Jackson)

The question: "How many people are on your board?"

The answer: "We have 10, but only two with a heartbeat. Our team is so small that when it comes to board members, there are only three with any sense."

– One of our rural performing arts series presenters

"I'm so bummed. I didn't get a chance to buy the boys any firearms for Christmas."

– Staff member Kristin Burgoyne's dad, Christmas 2004

"Never in doubt, but not always right."

– Paul Stahl, 2007

"We never say there's no law, we just can't find one."

– Former MAC accountant Carleen Layne, 2008, talking about legislative actions that year

"He has yet to have the experience of increasing power by giving away authority."

– National Assembly of State Arts Agencies CEO Jonathan Katz, 2008

"In Montana, if you say you're wealthy, you own a bar."

– Lobbyist Drew Geiger, 2012

"Butte: where the maternity section in the bridal shops is larger than the regular section."

– Carleen Layne, former MAC Accountant and Anaconda native

"I always have to have someone on my 'to-be-litigated' list."

– MAC staffer Cinda Holt.

"I'm from Anaconda. It's not a 'litigated' list – it's a 'to-be-murdered' list."

– Carleen

"I'm so glad that I've been in this job so long that I'm not suicidal after these meetings."

– Arni Fishbaugh

"I'm not suicidal, I'm homicidal."

– Carleen, our former accountant

"I can't think of anyone else I'd rather go to hell with than you."

– Carleen to Arni during one of our budget crises

Sean Chandler joins arts council (from page 1)

Chandler, who is director of the American Indian Studies at Aaniiih Nakoda College in Harlem, earned his bachelor's degree in art and a master's in Native American Studies from Montana State University in Bozeman. He received a doctorate in educational leadership from The University of Montana in Missoula in 2014; his dissertation focused on "The Identity of Upholding Indigenous Lifeways."

During his 14-year tenure at Aaniiih Nakoda College, Chandler has helped students receive the tools they need to study the language, history and culture of the Aaniinen and Nakoda people. He was project director of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant that helped establish and refine American Indian Studies at the college as a stand-alone degree program. He also directed a second NEH grant, designed to establish the tribal archives as an important resource for tribal research and preservation.

He continues to oversee the Fort Belknap Tribal Archives and works with local elementary and secondary schools to foster cultural education and awareness. He's taught at the White Clay Immersion School, offering language instruction in Aaniinen (Gros Ventre), since 2002.

During his tenure as director of the college's Tribal History Project from 2006-08, he filmed and created several documentary-type films of Gros Ventre and Assiniboine elders.

Among his accomplishments, Chandler was named Faculty Member of the Year in 2012 by the American Indian College Fund, and received a Mellon Foundation Faculty Career Advancement Fellowship in 2011. He

also received a Kellogg Minority Leadership Fellowship in 2005.

Chandler's work was selected for the groundbreaking exhibit "From Our Ancestors: Art of the White Clay People," shown in 2010 at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. He contributed a historical and cultural narrative to the catalogue, along with George Horse Capture, whose son, Joe Horse Capture, was associate curator of the exhibit. "From Our Ancestors" marked the first time a major art museum has held an exhibition devoted to a specific Native American tribe, and curated by members of that tribe.

Chandler has shown his work regionally, nationally and internationally, most recently as part of the President's Fine Art Series exhibit at MSU, "Continuity and Change: Contemporary Native Art Today." His work has been included in exhibits at the Heard Museum in Phoenix and the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, and pieces are part of the permanent collections at the Museum of Natural History in Paris, France, as well as the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Chandler is no stranger to the Montana Arts Council: he's served on the Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee since 2008 and was a member of the Artist's Innovation Award Committee in 2013.

When he earned his doctorate from UM in 2014, Native American Studies professor Kathryn W. Shanley noted that Chandler "values educational leadership that can make a difference for American Indian people. More than that, he brings a commitment and creativity to all that he does ..."

STATE OF THE ARTS

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State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

Next Deadline: The deadline for submissions is Sept. 1 for the Fall issue (October-December). Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email mac@mt.gov.

Subscriptions: *State of the Arts* is available free of charge to Montana residents as a public service of the Montana Arts Council. To subscribe, call 406-444-6430, or update or sign-up online at www.art.mt.gov. Out-of-state subscriptions are \$15 per year; mail your check to Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620.

CONGRATS TO ...

Collaborative ceramic artists **Greg Jahn and Nancy Halter** of Billings, who recently won the coveted People's Choice Award at the 23rd Strictly Functional Pottery National in Lancaster, PA, with a pair of mugs. Nationally recognized educator Matt Long was this year's juror from the University of Mississippi. This is Jahn and Halter's sixth acceptance into the national show of contemporary American functional ceramics, where they've also won the SFPN Founder's Award twice. This award adds to growing accolades, including publication of their work in seven ceramic art books, most notably 2012's *The Best of 500 Ceramics: Celebrating a Decade in Clay*, the world's foremost anthology of contemporary ceramics over the past 10 years. Their differing art experiences blend into an uncommon fusion of shared creativity. They combine independent, lifelong careers: Greg as a studio potter, and Nancy as a painter, illustrator and designer. Their 25 years together has produced a unique, synergetic style that contributes to Montana's rich clay tradition and reputation.



Mugs by Greg Jahn and Nancy Halter

Photographer **Richard S. Buswell**, who had 331 photographs purchased by Yale University for its Collection of Western Americana. Yale began buying Buswell's photographs in 2007, with the last installment acquired in April. The collection now holds the vast majority of the Helena artist's work. Buswell has been photographing artifacts of the Montana frontier for 45 years. His photography has been shown in 349 museums, either as solo exhibitions or as part of group shows. Major museums exhibiting his work include the Denver Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, San Jose Museum of Art, Orlando Museum of Art, Birmingham (Alabama) Museum of Art and the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University. The Montana Museum of Art and Culture has circulated four national tours of Buswell's work. The latest, titled *Close To Home*, is still circulating nationally. The Holter Museum of Art in Helena will host a retrospective exhibition of his photography in 2018. In addition, 225 museums, nationally and internationally, have acquired Buswell's photography for their respective permanent collections. Four books of Buswell's photography have been published, with a fifth, titled *What They Left Behind*, to be released by the University of New Mexico Press in January.

Helena artist **Kathryn Fehlig**, who will be profiled in a featured article in the *Acrylic Artist* magazine's 2016 summer issue. The profile is the result of her acrylic painting, "Mountain Ash Crown," winning the *Acrylic Artist* Magazine Award in the 2015 International Society of Acrylic Painters Show in Paso Robles, CA.



"Mountain Ash Crown" by Kathryn Fehlig

Helena artist **Sandra Dal Poggetto**, whose work was on display May 6-June 10 at Visions West Contemporary in Denver. The solo show was titled "Wildtime"; an exhibition catalogue features an essay by Zoe Larkins. Also at the gallery: Montana artist **Theodore Waddell's** paintings are part of "The Inseparable Trinity of the Land: Water, Sky, and Animal," June 18-July 15.

Missoula artist **Monte Dolack**, who worked with the International Association of Wildland Fire to create a poster to provide "dynamic and universal visual communication to the 28 countries united in fighting and preventing wildland fire." The original acrylic painting will be displayed in Washington, DC, at the headquarters of the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development. The poster, titled "Wildland Fire, Uniting Globally," was released April 11, during the fifth Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference in Portland, OR.



"Rock Creek 1920" by Elaine Davis

Missoula artist **Elaine Davis**, whose oil paintings were featured at Gallery 23, Spanish Village, in Balboa Park, San Diego, April 16-30. Back home, Davis was the featured artist in June at Starving Artist Cafe and Art Gallery and will share 25 paintings on the 3rd floor west hallway at St. Patrick's Hospital, September-November.

MAPS Media Institute in Hamilton, which is among 50 outstanding programs all over the country recognized for their work in providing excellent arts and humanities learning opportunities to young people. From big cities to

small towns, the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award Finalists reflect the diversity of disciplines and settings of these exceptional programs that are taking place from coast to coast. MAPS will be notified in June whether it was in the top 10, earning

\$10,000 and a trip to Washington, DC (MAPS was also named one of the top 50 programs in 2014). Founder and CEO **Peter Rosten** was inducted into the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences "Silver Circle" June 4 during an awards ceremony in Seattle. This recognition is awarded to media professionals who began their careers in television at least 25 years ago. Rosten says it was his long career in Hollywood that qualified him for the award, "but the work that I do now is what really matters – and thank goodness our team is just amazing."



Peter Rosten

Montana The Magazine of Western History, which celebrates 65 years in print. The magazine's origins date back to April 1950,



Montana The Magazine of Western History, Spring 2016

when the Montana Historical Society (MHS) Board of Trustees decided that a "living magazine" ought to be published. With its first issue in 1951, the magazine carried the motto "to preserve, to publish, and to promote interest in the history of Montana." *Montana* continues to uphold this legacy. Today, it reaches nearly 8,000 MHS members, subscribers, and newsstand customers. The magazine is also a membership benefit for many who belong to the Western History Association, which promotes the study and teaching of the North American West. Inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and with a growing list of awards from organizations such as the Mountain-Plains Museums Association, National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center, Western Writers of America, and others, the magazine's success would surely please the board members whose original vision led to its creation.

Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, which was among six organizations nationwide selected to host a Citizens' Institute on Rural Design™ (CIRD) workshop for the 2016-17 program year. The workshops will bring together local leaders, nonprofits, community organizations, and citizens with a team of rural planning and creative

placemaking professionals to craft solutions to their communities' development and design challenges. Red Lodge submitted a proposal to rehabilitate and repurpose an old school building into a dedicated performance and cultural arts space. CIRD awardees receive a \$10,000 stipend to support the workshop and follow-up planning sessions. Each also receives in-kind design

expertise and technical assistance valued at \$35,000, and additional support through webinars, conference calls, and web-based resources. CIRD is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Project for Public Spaces, and the Orton Family Foundation.

The four projects honored with Preservation Awards by the Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission: **the Hotel Arvon team, C.M. Russell Museum, Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art** and the **McGraw Building (Bob Milford)** in Fort Benton. The team responsible for the development of the **Hotel Arvon**, including **Chuck, Gerry and Peter Jennings** with assistance by **Tom Nelson** of D.A. Davidson Co. and **Dick Anderson Construction**, was honored for their outstanding work in returning the 1890 hotel to a comfortable and creative boutique hotel in the heart of downtown Great Falls. The **C.M. Russell Museum** was recognized for a project completed last year to restore and paint the exterior of the Charles and Nancy Russell home, a National Historic Landmark. The Preservation Commission went to downtown Fort Benton for a storefront restoration project award. Former Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC) chairman Bob Milford is restoring the **McGraw Building** on Front Street for his antique business. His award-winning project uncovered the original, terra-cotta arch and returned architectural integrity and design to the building, which was built in 1912, and originally served as the McGraw saloon before being converted to a theater in 1932. **Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art** was recognized for its west-side historic door replacement. New solid oak stile and rail doors were fabricated by Craftmaster Cabinets and fitted with appropriate brass fixtures, tempered glass windows and electric operators. The new entrance is visual proof that accessibility can be beautiful and appropriate in historic buildings. Recipients were honored during the annual Preservation Award reception, held May 26 at the Civic Center. This year's theme was "This Place Matters."



Charles and Nancy Russell home

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for State of the Arts



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Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trail, Charlo, MT 59824; or email: kristi@livelytimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it's at least 200 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) and a file size of over 500kb.



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Livingston to host Hometown Humanities

Livingston is the next site for Hometown Humanities, an initiative that brings a year's worth of humanities-based programming to a single community.

A local steering committee with representatives from the local library, Park County Public High School, and Yellowstone Gateway Museum will work with members of the community and Humanities Montana staff to plan approximately 25 educational and cultural programs. Events will include public speakers, speakers in the schools, community discussions, and more.

To participate in the planning committee or to sign up for a newsletter to get alerts about upcoming events, email info@humanitiesmontana.org.



Tracy Johnson

TRANSITIONS

So long and best wishes to **Monica Grable**, founding executive director of the Bitterroot Performing Arts Council. She announced this spring that she planned to step down from the position after 12 seasons. Grable was initially hired by the Hamilton School District as manager of its new Performing Arts Center at Hamilton High School. By June 2009, the Bitterroot Performing Arts Council was founded to continue presenting world-class arts on the Hamilton stage. This season, the council presented six shows, including blues guitarist Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings, classical legends David Finckel and WuHan, Parson's Dance, and the renowned Kronos Quartet. The group brought Solas to the Dennison Theater at The University of Montana in March and wrapped up the season in April with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. "The caliber of artists we've hosted this season is truly representative of Monica and her amazing work over the years," Peggy Tonon, president of the board of directors for the council, told the *Ravalli Republic*. "The vitality of our organization is due, in no small part, to Monica's years of tireless dedication and leadership for which we are so grateful. It hasn't been easy and we recognize her sacrifices over the years to make the series a success." Grable, who also worked half time as an art teacher at Hamilton High, said her decision to depart coincided with her daughter's graduation this spring. "As she is planning on her next phase of life, I, too, have found myself looking to my future and the list of things I have yet to accomplish or experience," Grable told the newspaper. "The timing feels right for me to make a transition in my career." She added that BPAC "is in great hands with a legacy building and years of great performances ahead."



Monica Grable

— From the *Ravalli Republic*, March 5



Laurie Ruffner

and that "none of us is as smart as all of us." Ruffner enjoys all aspects of the performing arts and is passionate about serving and contributing to her community. In her spare time, she enjoys fly fishing, traveling, skiing, hiking, and cooking.

Welcome to **Tracy Johnson**, who began her official duties as executive director at the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell on May 3. "Tracy, with her strong museum experience, education, and drive, will continue to raise the profile of the Hockaday as an expanding regional museum and ensure continuity of programming for the Museum's members, artists, and guests," predicted board president Harry Wilson. Johnson began her love of art and culture early in life, growing up in a family-owned art gallery and visiting museums and historic sites as a child. She has a bachelor's degree in archaeology from Simon Fraser University, and performed archaeological fieldwork in the southern interior of British Columbia for six years, collaborating with Native American groups, government organizations and private-sector clients. The "down time" of winter led her into the world of artifact collections care, and her decision to complete graduate studies in cultural resource management with a specialization in museums. From 2006 to 2011, she was the curator of collections and exhibitions at the High Desert Museum in Bend, OR. Johnson became the Oliver and District Heritage Society's community heritage manager in 2012, overseeing a community archives and historic building museum in Oliver, BC. Her biggest achievement was a complex federal grant allowing the complete renovation of the museum's interior while preserving the historic characteristics of the building. In her new post, Johnson hopes to "bring the Hockaday more to the community, to the people that support us in our mission, and to those who may not have an opportunity to learn about art. I believe art can be for everyone."

Welcome to **Jackalynn Snow**, who has been selected as the education director of the Missoula Cultural Council and director of SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning. She was chosen by members of the SPARK! Governing Board after a national search and interviews with other highly qualified candidates. She begins her official duties June 20. As an English educator and theater director, Snow has been engaging and challenging students through the arts at Billings Skyview High School, and most recently at Surabaya Intercultural School in Indonesia. She is a University of Montana Creative Pulse Masters' Program graduate and she has trained teachers in arts integration at state and international conferences. SPARK! is a collective impact

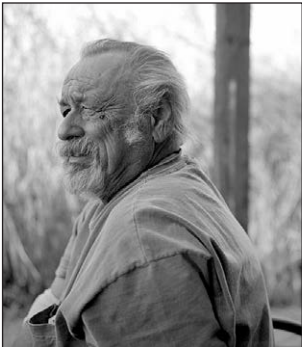
project led by the city of Missoula, Missoula County Public Schools, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the University of Montana College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well numerous arts organizations, businesses, philanthropic groups, and individual artists. The Missoula Cultural Council is the fiscal sponsor of SPARK! Missoula was selected as a Kennedy Center Any Given Child site in 2013. For more information, visit www.sparkartslearning.org.



Jackalynn Snow

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family, friends and readers of writer **Jim Harrison**. His "lust for life — and sometimes just plain lust — roared into print in a vast, celebrated body of fiction, poetry and essays that with ardent abandon explored the natural world, the life of the mind and the pleasures of the flesh." He died on March 26 at his home in Patagonia, AZ. "A native of Michigan, Mr. Harrison lived most recently during the summers in the wild countryside near Livingston, where he enthusiastically shot the rattlesnakes that colonized his yard, and during the winters in Patagonia, where he enthusiastically shot all kinds of things." Read his full obituary at www.nytimes.com (and numerous other sources).



Jim Harrison (Photo by Wyatt McSpadden/Grove Atlantic)



Creath Athol Tooley

The family and friends of **Creath Athol Tooley**. A Cold Warrior who worked for peace in his mature years, he died April 18. Tooley was born in Jordan, April 6, 1921, and in 1923, his family moved to Red Lodge. He graduated from Carbon County High School in 1938 and joined Montana National Guard's legendary 163rd Infantry Regiment while attending Montana State College in Bozeman. Discharged in 1946, Capt. Tooley held commissions in Military Intelligence and Signal Corps. He continued as a reserve officer, serving in the Army Security Agency. After World War II, Tooley was serving as district intelligence officer for the 13th Naval District HQ in Seattle when he was recruited by the fledgling Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC. In the 1950s, he was detailed to the U.S. Department of State and assigned to the British colony (now Republic) of Cyprus. His three-year tour in the Middle East and another one in the Far East alternated with stateside duty in Washington. During the Cuban missile crisis, he was ordered to Seattle to take charge of Region 8 of the President's Office of Emergency Planning (OEP), a precursor agency to FEMA. He spent the final 10 years of his federal career as OEP regional director for the Northwest. He was cited for outstanding performance with multiple recognitions, including the Distinguished Service Award. After retiring from federal service, Creath returned to Montana. He served 10 years as Yellowstone County assessor and retired for the last time in 1985. Tooley had a beautiful voice and shared his talent, singing as a soloist and as a member of musical groups, including church choirs, barbershop quartets and the Shrine Chanters. For decades, he sang with the Italian folk singers at the Festival of Nations in Red Lodge. Tooley also had a knack for storytelling and could have his audiences in knee-slapping hilarity or groaning in ironic pain. He was also a devoted, romantic husband and a loving, generous father, a lifelong Democrat and a member of Masonic organizations and the Al Bedoo Shrine Temple. He served as president of the Montana Assessors Association, Campfire Inc. and Billings Kiwanis Club. His generous contributions to charitable organizations reflected his sense of obligation to share.

— From the *Last Best News*, April 19

The family and friends of **Nancy Ann Holter**. The vocalist and musician passed away June 4 at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. She was 91. Holter is formerly of the Bigfork area, Great Falls, Glasgow and Sun City, AZ. She was a proud veteran of the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) during World War II. Born in 1925, she showed her talent for music at an early age. She said her life changed when she started piano lessons at 13, played in the orchestra and was asked to accompany soloists. In the WAVES, she was accepted to the "Singing Platoon" of talented women and recalled singing with Perry Como at a memorial service for President Roosevelt at Rockefeller Center. She earned a bachelor's in music education in 1949 from the University of Minnesota. She married Willard Holter in 1948, and his career as a distinguished radio broadcaster brought them to Montana, where he eventually owned stations in Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, Malta and Livingston. A highlight of her married life was attending Alliance Francaise language school and moving to Paris, where her husband was a broadcaster for the CBS Paris bureau and Blue Danube radio network in Austria. Music was a theme throughout her life; she was a choir director or accompanist at various churches and sang in the Great Falls Symphony Choir; she had a knack for writing special songs for friends and family, performing on the piano for the honoree.

— From the *Missoulian*, June 8

Myrna Loy Center: 25 years in the county jail

By Kristi Niemeyer

Nearly two years ago, Helena's beloved Myrna Loy Center was on the edge of collapse. Now, it's celebrating 25 years in the renovated county jail, and a history that goes back 40 years, to the inception of Second Story Cinema.

It's a comeback story that executive director Krys Holmes credits to the community. "Helena is so amazing that way," she says.

"They were determined not to let the Myrna go down."

The center, which screens foreign and independent films and offers some of the most vibrant performing arts programming in Montana, was spawned in 1976.

Its founder, Arnie Malina, along with Alex Swaney and Jay Tieger, head-

ed to Missoula to catch a film at the Crystal Theater. On the way back, the trio began to wonder why they had to drive more than 100 miles to see a classic or foreign film.

That roadtrip and subsequent conversations were the genesis of Second Story Cinema, founded by Malina and Tieger upstairs in the old Placer Building. Almost immediately, they began to bring in performers too, and provide a venue for local cultural events.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1985 helped the organization move into its current home in the historic Lewis and Clark County Jail, renamed in honor of film star and Montana native Myrna Loy.

As founding director of the Myrna Loy Center, Malina won the Fannie Taylor Career Achievement Award from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in 1994. In 1997, the center received the Governor's Arts Award and was lauded as "essential to the cultural life of Montana." It was the same year that Malina became artistic director of the Flynn Center in Burlington, VT (he retired in 2011).

Ed Noonan took over as director in 2000 – stepping in at a time when the center had closed temporarily, due to red ink. Both men were members of the National Performance Network (NPN), and Noonan still serves on that board. It's an organization that shares

their vision of "fostering diversity and artistic experimentation through support for artists and cultural organizers."

Over the years, that national connection helped the Myrna offer wide-ranging and often eccentric performances of a nature rarely, if ever, seen in Montana. Among the more innovative: Project Bandaloop's "Portal," performed on a Missouri River bridge; a dance/jazz/Native American work by Garth

Fagan Dance, pianist Don Pullen and the Chief Cliff Singers, which toured around the country, including performances in New York City and the Flathead Indian Reservation; and "Geyser Land," by Mary Ellen Strom and Ann Carlson, which was observed by audiences from railroad cars travel-

ing along the tracks between Livingston and Bozeman.

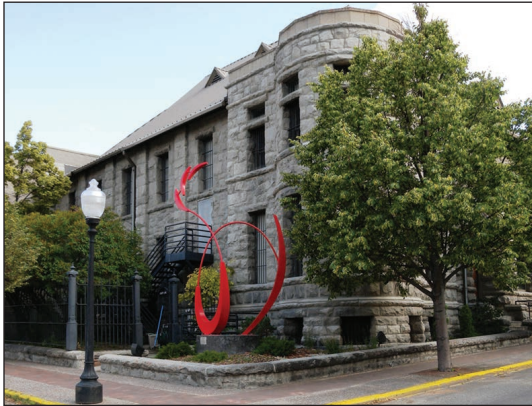
NPN's support for new performing arts commissions has helped shape the Myrna Loy and foster sophisticated audiences. "A great audience for contemporary work has been developed," Noonan told a reporter in 2010, "and our audience is sharp. Other [isolated] communities don't have it and it's hard to bring in contemporary work."

The Myrna Loy's long participation in NPN also put it in the running for a multi-million dollar effort to build financial and organizational strength in the arts, supported in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The center was one of six arts organizations nationwide chosen for the program, called Leveraging a Network for Equity.

The four-year program includes clinics, workshops, individual financial consulting, and investment capital.

"It's like sending your arts center to graduate school," says Holmes. "We get access to expertise, resources, and finances that none of the participants could ever reach on our own."

Holmes, who became interim director in 2014 and executive director in 2015, echoes the values of her predecessors. "Arnie's legacy, his vision, was for the Myrna to be a place to share film and live performances that give voice to perspectives outside the mainstream."



The county jail lives on as the Myrna Loy Center.

Myrna's birthday party and "Life in the Key of Alex"

Friends of the Myrna Loy Center are invited to celebrate its legacy with a festival and concert July 30. Party with founding director Arnie Malina, along with some of the "Footsoldiers of Art" who helped transform the Myrna Loy from jailhouse to art house.

Story booths, photo archives, movie events, live music, food, libations, and even juggling are among the offerings at the free birthday party.

Festivities culminate in a concert at 7:30 p.m., "Life in the Key of Alex," celebrating the music and contributions of Alex Swaney, one of the creative conspirators behind Second Story Cinema. She also helped start two well-known Montana bands – Cheap Cologne and The Jane Finigan Quintet – and was Folklife director for the Montana Arts Council for several years.

"She's been there the whole time," says the center's executive director, Krys Holmes. "So quiet and unassuming. It's a perfect opportunity to celebrate her gifts."

Swaney composed a number of jazz-based pieces that Bob Packwood and MJ Williams will bring to life – some of them for the first time on the Myrna Loy stage. Admission is \$25.

Learn more at myrnaloycenter.com.

Noonan, she adds, "gave so much of his heart and soul to the Myrna, holding it to its mission even when it was tremendously difficult to do."

Between Malina's vision, and Noonan's steadfast advocacy for individual artists, "what a powerful legacy we have."

Holmes came to leadership at the Myrna gradually, having served as a volunteer, staff member, board member and patron. "I have a pretty deep understanding of what the Myrna is at its core," she says.

"As we go forward and change, I hope to remain steadfast to the unique identity of the Myrna ... and be able to not just hang in there and keep the doors open, but to break new ground."



5

Montana Book Award goes to *Lentil Underground*

Liz Carlisle's book, *Lentil Underground: Renegade Farmers and the Future of Food in America*, won the 2015 Montana Book Award. This annual award recognizes literary and/or artistic excellence in a book written or illustrated by someone who lives in Montana, is set in Montana, or deals with Montana themes or issues.

Presentations and a reception with the winning authors were held April 6 during the Montana Library Association Conference in Missoula.

Lentil Underground tells the inspiring story of David Oien and other Montana organic farmers who work with heirloom seeds and biologically diverse farm systems.

Four honor books were also chosen: *Black River* by S.M. Hulse; *Crossing the Plains with Bruno* by Annick Smith; *Hawthorn: The Tree that has Nourished, Healed, and Inspired through the Ages* by Bill Vaughn; and *Tunnel Vision* by Susan Adrain.

In addition, Ivan Doig was remembered and honored for his body of Montana writing during this year's reception and presentations.

ABT executive director steps down

By Jaci Webb

Reprinted with permission from the *Billings Gazette*, May 17

For almost a decade, Alberta Bair Theater Executive Director William "Woody" Wood has greeted patrons in the lobby at nearly every event from sold-out shows featuring the Blue Man Group to lesser-known shows like Carpe Diem.

On July 8, Wood will leave Billings for a position in Michigan at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts and the Albert L. Lorenzo Cultural Center at Macomb Community College. Wood said the position as director of cultural affairs and community engagement there is an "offer I just can't refuse." His resignation from the ABT was announced May 17.

"I know I'm leaving the theater on firm footing and with great plans to propel it forward into the future," Wood said. "I have enjoyed being a part of this vibrant community and getting to know the people who make it so. The opportunity presents me with many new professional challenges and will allow us to be closer to extended family."

Longtime ABT board member Kathleen Benoit-Whiteley pointed out that Wood ushered the ABT through the recession of 2008 when many theaters across the country were closing. Beyond that, Wood has worked hard to bring the cultural community together, serving as the president of the Cultural Partners.

"I'm sorry he's leaving. I'm really sorry



William "Woody" Wood: "I'm leaving the theater on firm footing with great plans to propel it forward."

(Photo by Larry Mayer/Billings Gazette)

he's leaving," Whiteley said. "Woody is one of my most favorite people. His only shortcoming is he cares so much, and that's not really a shortcoming."

Under Wood's leadership, audiences have grown and programming has expanded to include the Broadway Series. During the 2015-16 season, the theater hosted 10 sold-out shows, which compares to a more typical season that may sell out six to eight shows.

"We've had more sell-out and close to sell-out shows than we have had any season since I have been here (since January 2007)," Wood said.

He attributed the successful season to a "great convergence this year," allowing the theater to offer a diverse range of popular

acts. One act that didn't sell out, the Soweto Gospel Choir, was a personal favorite of Wood's. He said he's has been trying to book that act since taking over at the ABT.

ABT board president Bill Gottwals said Wood has made a tremendous impact, not only on the theater, but on the community. Gottwals praised Wood's ability to expand offerings.

"The theater is in a great position to grow and be successful due, in large part, to his hard work and dedication these past nine years. We wish him continued success," Gottwals said.

ABT board secretary Ron Yates said it will be a challenge to replace

Wood.

"As the face of the Alberta Bair Theater for nearly a decade, Woody will certainly be missed and tremendously difficult to replace. Michigan's gain is our community's loss. However, the ABT will be in very good hands with our current professional staff and engaged board during the upcoming transition process," Yates said.

Whiteley said Wood agreed to stay until the 2016-17 schedule was nailed down. A targeted national search to find a replacement for Wood will begin as soon as possible, Yates said.

The new season was announced on May 26. A farewell event will be planned at a later date, likely to be held in the lobby of the theater, Whiteley said.



8

Russell Museum posts record auction results

The C.M. Russell Museum achieved record results through several events and three live auctions during The Russell Exhibition and Sale, March 17-19 in Great Falls. The gross total of \$9.4 million beat the previous record of \$8.1 million in 2015.

The sold-out Russell Live Auction took place Saturday night at the Mansfield Convention Center in downtown Great Falls. It featured 150 lots of historic and contemporary Western art, including 12 significant pieces by Charles M. Russell. The gross sales total for the live auction, including buyer's premium, was \$8.2 million, over one million more than the 2015 record of \$6.6 million.

"We were honored to present such historically important pieces to our loyal collectors. All 12 Charles M. Russell pieces were sold, representing a continued robust interest in his work," says Christina Hoover-Blackwell, chair of the C.M. Russell Museum Board of Directors.

For more information about The Russell visit cmrussell.org.



"Trilogy" by Meagan Abra Blessing was completed at the Out West Art Show during Marty's Quick Finish event.

MAP and MCAM at Western Art Weekend

By Sheri Jarvis
Folk Arts and

Montana Artrepreneur Program Director
Artists in the Montana Artrepreneur

Program made history this year with more than 40 artists exhibiting at more than 13 shows throughout the city during the month of March – a record turnout for the program. MAP artists won numerous prestigious awards, graced auction stages with exquisite artwork, and earned important collector attention during Montana's annual showcase of traditional and contemporary – but not exclusively – western art.

Following are just a few photo highlights.



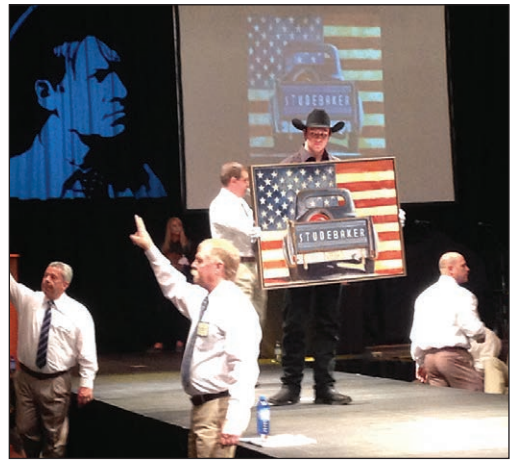
2015 Miles City Cohort MAP artist Amanda Heimbuch brought her delightful work and an equally delightful booth design for her first appearance at the Great Western Living and Design Show.



Certified MAP artist and coach Michael Blessing's neon work returned to the First Strike stage as a crowd favorite.



Montana's Circle of American Masters member Tom Dean enchanted collectors with exquisite artwork.



Certified MAP artist Wendy Marquis made a grand entrance with her patriotic piece at the C.M. Russell Museum's First Strike Auction and Brooke Atherton scored a winning bid.



Certified MAP artist Kathy Burke lit up the fair-ground's exhibit center with her stunning glass work at the Great Western Living and Design Show.

MAP heads to Innovate Montana

The Montana Artrepreneur Program will have two opportunities to tell the story of art and entrepreneurship at Innovate Montana, July 13-14 in Billings.

The Main Street Montana Project Peer-to-Peer Innovation Symposium, hosted by Governor Steve Bullock, will focus on highlighting innovation and Montana's small businesses while fostering the economic climate to grow our economy.

We'll be talking about MAP on Wednesday, July 13, during the Growing Montana's Makers component of the event at the Northern Hotel.

A panel discussion titled "Artrepreneurship – Artists as Entrepreneurs" is slated for 10-10:45 a.m. Thursday, July 14, at the

Crowne Plaza. Panel presenters are Certified MAP artists Michael Blessing and Tim Carlburg, and MAP artist and gallery owner Coila Evans.

Innovate Montana connects entrepreneurs with the resources they need to take their ventures to the next level of success in a global economy. Through a statewide network of partner organizations and events, Innovate Montana aims to create a statewide entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem.

We are thrilled to be a participant in this lively, progressive event. If you are in the area, please join us! More information about the event can be found at: innovatemontana.com/symposium.



Certified MAP artist Bev. Polk proudly exhibited evidence of her recently confirmed Montana's Circle of American Masters membership.

Photos by Sheri Jarvis

Out West Art Show and Sale lists winners

The Out West Art Show and Sale, which took place March 16-19 during Western Art Week in Great Falls, gave three major awards:

Meagan Abra Blessing's "Trilogy" won the People's Choice Award for Friday's Quick Finish event. Blessing is a fine art oil painter and horsewoman from Bozeman. Her years of hands-on experience with horses have result-

ed in paintings that are reflective of individual equine personalities, and her playful utilization of color and light brings a contemporary twist to classic and often quintessentially Western imagery.

Ben Pease's "The Wealth Of A Nation" won the People's Choice Award for Saturday's Quick Finish Event. Pease, a Crow/Northern Cheyenne artist, refers to his work as "traditionally contemporary." His mixed media paintings include renditions of historical figures and dignitaries in the Native American community, depicted with a modern aesthetic.

Both People's Choice winners will receive a future half-page ad in *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*.

Chip Jones won the Most Distinguished Body of Work Award, which includes a half-page ad and editorial sponsored by *Signature Montana Magazine* (Winston Publishing). Jones is a fifth generation Montanan and bronze artist who created a new technique of throwing bronze into open faced molds nearly a decade ago. Using up to 15 iron ladles during a single pour, he creates heavily textured relief work that is both contemporary and recognizable.



Chip Jones, who received the 2016 Most Distinguished Body of Work award at the Out West Art Show and Sale, with Haley Leray.

ABOUT MUSIC

– By Mariss McTucker

Alana Denise Damron and Friends: *The Making of the Miss Alaneous*

Havre native Alana Damron was raised in the south, traveled in her gypsy life as a freelance photographer, migrated back to Haugan where her folks run a Christian ministry, and crowdfunded this stunning debut album.

Producer Jacob Paul Phaneuf provides all the tasteful instrumentation, including guitar, banjo and mandolin, and sings back-up; Marcus Sugg adds percussion, and Emile Phaneuf, violin.

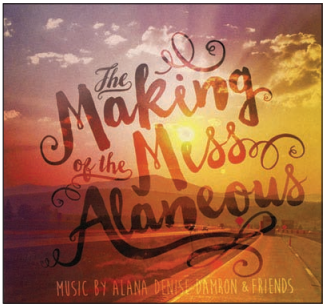
“The Miss Alaneous” Damron sang as a tot, later honing her rich, silky sound in church choirs. Her spirituality permeates her being, and it all comes out in her velvety voice.

She wrote some pieces, co-wrote others, and co-arranged a couple hymn-and-praise medleys with her guitar-playing mother, Sarah.

She moves around the musical landscape here. There’s a thigh-slapping backwoods gospel feel to “Brighter Life”; “Hist’ry Here” has a slow, bluesy beat and a nifty banjo riff; Amy Grant’s “Baby, Baby,” done as a waltzy lullaby, gets a smooth and whispery delivery. And on Neil Finn’s “Don’t Dream It’s Over,” I hear wisps of Adele and Jewel, Damron’s voice softly trembling as she makes sleek transitions. The “Wayfaring Stranger”/“I’ll Fly Away” medley is killer as well, with its riveting and ethereal layout.

I hear everyone in her voice. And sometimes she throws all her technique at the lines. When it all distills, and it’s all Alana, watch out!

Visit the artist at www.missalaneousmusic.com.



The Hasslers: *State Center*

Popular Missoula group The Hasslers just released a 12-song album, celebrating their move to Seattle for more exposure. The Americana roots-rock combo has a giant line-up allowing for different styles, so they pivot into folk and string-band sounds, too.

The new recording features front man Matt Hassler, lead vocals, guitar, and banjo; Owen Thayer, guitar and pedal steel; Erin Agner, main harmony vocals and accordion; brothers Ben (bass, vocals) and Steven Haber (keys/vocals); and Joey Boyd, percussion, mandolin, and sax. Dean Oswald, trumpet, performs on the recording as guest artist.

Hassler wrote all the melodies and lyrics except for Thayer’s “What Is Wisdom Anyway?” It’s a shuffly country loper with lots of electric guitar and silky steel. Sounding like a cross between Arlo Guthrie and Cat Stevens, Hassler is a down-and-out soul adrift in New Orleans. He’s homesick, and wants to get home to Montana.

“Sound It Out” captures that New Orleans funky vibe, slow-tappin’ and hip-shakin’. Sax and trumpet riffs flesh out this jazzy number.

“Falling Out of Love” is bluesy with an offbeat rhythm and an Allman Brothers twin-guitar opening. Agner matches Hassler’s vocal inflections perfectly, and on the catchy and rolling “Oh My Dear, Oh My Darling,” she shares lead vocals.

“Hurts Sometimes” is a delightful musical nursery rhyme. Folky guitar and banjo create a tick-tock-y feel, and their interplay echoes Hassler’s vocal phrasings as he mouths oodles of lyrics. I like it!

“Handful,” the last tune, comes in with a sweet and mesmerizing start, then builds; Hassler’s vocal enters, then Agner joins in and the tempo grabs a 10,000 Maniacs drumbeat. As the piece waxes and wanes, Hassler and Agner erupt into a melodic argument with many voices joining them. Definitely a handful!

The band’s inventive arrangements, complex and interesting, are a collaboration among the six, and it definitely shows here.

Visit www.thehasslersband.com for more details.



Johnny Moore and Friends: *Now and Then*

Helena songwriter John Moore recently got some pals together to record his second album, a compilation of his homemade tunes spanning many years and moods.

These folks are veterans of the Queen City music scene, and play in various bands. The laundry list: drums, Jeremy Sleat, Tim Lashley, and co-producer Dan Nichols (percussion, too); tenor/alto saxes and harmonica, Michael Kakuk; bass, John Sutton; and lead guitar, John Chart and Mike Killeen. Ann Waickman, Erin Powers, and Lucas Michelson add harmony vocals.

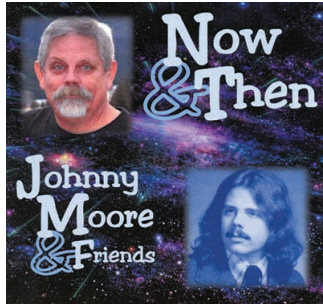
Moore learned piano as a boy but is self-taught otherwise; along with keys, he contributes guitar, lap steel, organ, mandolin, and bass. “Among these songs, some are deeply personal, others are just stories, and the rest are in-between,” he says.

Having such a stellar conglomerate of talent helping out adds spirit and character to the works. His storytelling prowess, coupled with a penchant for writing fine dance music, doesn’t hurt, either.

The rockabilly, shuffling “Rambler Classic” hops to it; “Class Reunion” is a slowly rocking ballad wherein Moore’s supple voice tiptoes into his falsetto range; and “The Saga of Sarah Burns,” is an up-tempo tale of infidelity with a twist.

“Big C” is a bluesy, swampy true story in which Moore rhymes biopsy and autopsy (fortunately, it has a happy ending); and “Cross Dressin’” sports wicked guitar and sax punctuation.

There’s so much more here, you’d just better give it a listen.



Tom Robison: *The Boy’s Lament for His Dragon – Harp Tunes, Heart Songs*

Bozeman musician Tom Robison says about his third album, “basically I play fiddle when I want to get excited, harp when I want to calm me down.”

The super-fiddler/harper stretches his wings on both instruments as he combines traditional Celtic and American compositions in a charming, refreshing mix. Melding the ancient instruments in a new way, he brings back sounds from another time, re-invigorating these jigs, hornpipes, songs, and American folk pieces.

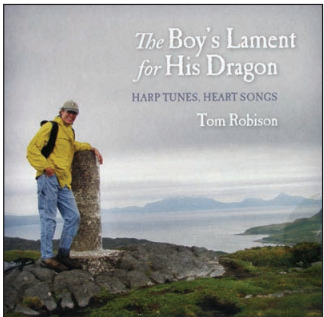
A teacher of the Suzuki violin method, Robison became interested in the harp years ago and prefers performing on it these days. His is a 36-string folk harp, with a standard scale. That means nothing tricky with sharps and flats, which is perfectly suited to these traditionals. It’s a sweet sound all around, and there are lots of contrasting rhythms to boot.

“Tailor’s Twist/Wicklow Hornpipe” shows Robison’s harp prowess on succinct, lovely triplets. Several numbers find him playing both instruments, which alternate melody and accompaniment.

Trips to Scotland and Ireland imbued him with the Celtic folk-singing style, and he adds that flavor to “The Three Gypsies,” and injects the Irish singer’s brogue into “The Limerick Rake.”

And, of course, Robison’s fiddle mastery always works on rags, and “City of Savannah/Peacock Rag” is evidence of that.

This is another stellar effort by a fine folk artist. Visit him at tom-robison.squarespace.com.



Jake Ryan: *Space Cowboy*

Helena hip-hop purveyor Jake Ryan, one-man band, has a new six-piece EP out called *Space Cowboy*. He plays all the instruments including piano and guitars, and handles all the wizardry of electronic manipulation. The exception is “Making Contact.” Ryan’s partner, Tyson Lunn (aka Nintendeaux), helped him produce that one.

On the title cut, Ryan delves into what it’s like to be ostracized. Abruptly, the tune segues into the quiet and bluesy slide-guitar riff of “Back on the Map.” Ryan adds harmonica accompaniment. He raps on the meth problem, calling it “homemade redneck cocaine”; yet, in spite of drugs, he boasts that we still know how to party.

From its ominous opening, “Dead Man Walking” is a disquieting rap about a small-time criminal who graduates into heavy drug use and spirals out of control. Guests Evrgn and Illest Uminati share vocals.

Georgia’s Bubba Sparxxx is featured on “Making Contact,” and OverTime vocalizes on “Dreams Come True.”



Chris Sand: *American Road Trip*

Missoula musician Chris Sand, also known as “Sandman, The Rappin’ Cowboy,” has released his 13th album in 20 years of touring the country’s byways. Experiences from truck-driving and performing infuse 13 pieces, done in his eclectic mix of punky hip-hop and folky cowboy music.

Sand wrote most of the lyrics and music, but others contributed: his cousin Karel Hastings, Timezone LaFontaine, Lamberfast Weston, and Corwin Fox. Sand recites two poems by others as well. Sparse recording on some songs shares the bill with many instruments on the rest. They all layer miles of asphalt with acres of lyrics, most providing a chuckle.

Not the first one, though. “Road Kill” finds Sand considering how he will die when the time comes; he figures it will be on a highway somewhere, what with all the miles he’s traveled. “Ronald McDonald 2.0” is a bluesy rap over piano and drums about Sand’s favorite clown’s fast-food connections; and “Bull” is florid with visuals, set to a spooky melody with “Ghost Riders” nuances.

In a departure from his rap style, Sand recites a 1924 poem by Bruce Kiskaddon, “When They’ve Finished Shipping Cattle in the Fall,” over jazzy, subdued accompaniment. Good oratory.

Visit chrissand.net for details.



County Line: *Montana*

Missoula band County Line calls itself a rockin’, redneck, outlaw-country band, and proves it on this debut album. It’s a compilation of original songs the guys perform at their shows; the band says it’s time to move from being a long-time cover band with a few homemade songs, to one that plays its own music along with a few covers.

The fellas, who have been together for years, include lead singer/acoustic guitar-player Shawn Christensen, guitarists and vocalists Doug Koester and Stuart Jackson, bassist Mike Hegwood, and Drew Barker on drums and percussion. Christensen and Koester wrote the tunes.

This band makes you thirsty for whiskey and hungry to dance with its wall-of-guitar sounds. “Saturday Night” sets the mood. Fuzzed-up guitar gets the energy going, and Christensen belts it out in his robust baritone.

“Working Man’s Game” has a bluesy rock sensibility and a stinging guitar solo by Koester; “Our Love” has a long intro before settling into a gentle rockin’ beat; and “Honest Love” storms in like a Dire Straits’ song, propelled by Koester’s electric slide. “Bottle” sports a thick and bassy riff like a slow “Jackie Blue” as Jackson blisters a guitar solo.

Visit www.facebook.com/countylinemontana.



9

State of the Arts welcomes CDs

State of the Arts welcomes CD submissions by Montana musicians for inclusion in the About Music section. The recordings must be professional, commercially available, full-length CDs, with cover art and liner notes. Brief biographical information on band members would be helpful to the writer.

Please send submissions to either the Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT, 59620; or *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824.



10

How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts*' "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to writaus@livelytimes.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher, and month/year published;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits. They will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.

ABOUT BOOKS

The Actor

By Beth Hunter McHugh

In her acclaimed debut novel, Beth Hunter McHugh tells the story of a family whose idyllic life is suddenly ruptured. This elegantly written story is set in the 1960s in a university town in Montana, where 13-year-old Grace and her younger sister, Franny, live with their parents, Nora and David, both professors – Nora teaches law and David is an actor and drama professor.

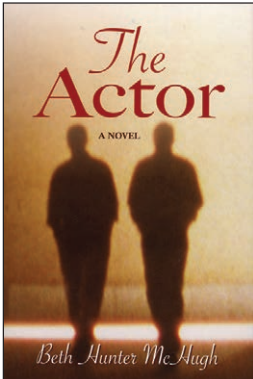
When Ivan, a young acting student, arrives to stay for an undetermined period of time, and the dynamics of the household begin to change. One day, a suitcase is packed, a bus ticket procured, and life will never be the same.

Nora and the girls move to an old farmhouse on the edge of town where they reconnect with a man and his daughter who hold mysterious ties to their past.

Grace and Franny adjust to their new life, and the challenges of being teenage girls and fitting in. They make a game of telling curious people about their past, changing their story to suit the inquirer, while their mother goes about gently, gracefully reinventing herself. This is a story of a family living on a razor's edge of secrecy and truth, and through Grace's eyes, what it means to grow up in such a world.

"I gaped open-mouthed at its wisdom and beauty," writes author Debra Magpie Earling of the novel. "McHugh is the literary heir to Kent Haruf and Ivan Doig."

The author, a graduate of Helena High School who lives in Hamilton, received her MFA from The University of Montana and teaches high school English. This book was a "runaway" winner of Riverbend Publishing's inaugural Meadowlark Award, presented in 2015.



Crossing the River, A Life in Brazil

By Amy Ragsdale

Former University of Montana dance professor and choreographer Amy Ragsdale sought to make balance and joy more central to her life, and continue to raise a pair of "global children" when the family decided to spend a year in northeastern Brazil.

Their adventure seems to have accomplished those goals, but not without its share of struggles.

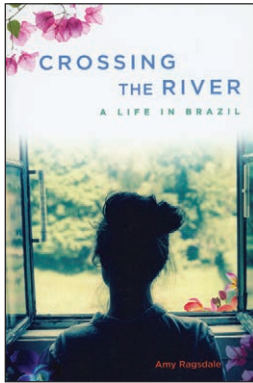
Ragsdale attributes her wanderlust to a childhood that took her to Thailand, the Philippines and Egypt. When she married writer Peter Stark, she found a fellow adventurer, and together they explored China, Greenland, West Africa, and the Tibetan Plateau.

Their children, teenagers Mollie and Skylar, had already lived in Indonesia, Spain and Mozambique, and asked for a "small town with a local school ... Peter and I wondered if they understood how challenging that might be."

The family landed in the charming hill town of Penedo, where Portuguese was the dominant language.

With vibrancy, humor and insight, Ragsdale describes the triumphs and obstacles her family faced navigating cultural differences and language barriers. More than a chronicle of a year spent in a foreign land, it's a thoughtful examination of the challenges of parenting, of America's penchant for over-achieving, and how to cultivate simplicity and balance wherever we are.

– Kristi Niemeyer



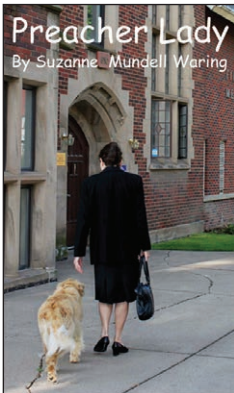
Preacher Lady

By Suzanne Mundell Waring

Connie Beal, the Preacher Lady, steps out on her own at mid-life, moving to her first solo assignment as a pastor. Suzanne Waring's novel takes Connie through her first year at Old West Church where she beats down the antagonism of being a woman in what is considered by some a man's job, while attempting to revitalize a traditional church.

Knowing that she is inexperienced, Connie seeks guidance from multiple sources as she strives to help her congregation with age-old problems.

The Great Falls author is a freelance writer for *Signature Montana* and *Best of Great Falls*. Her first book was *Searching for a Special Place*, the story of one year of her childhood.



My Wild Garden Zoo

By Therese Hutchinson

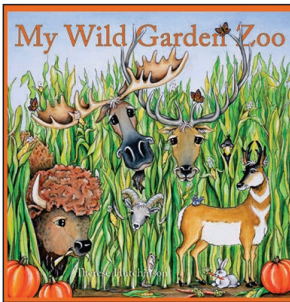
Artist and graphic designer Therese Hutchinson pairs colorful paintings with poetry to portray an array of wildlife that visits a young boy's family garden.

The author hopes her work can be used as a teaching tool for young readers to learn about animals and birds, which she illustrates with identifying features, true to form.

Can you name the differences between the mountain goat's horns and those of the bighorn sheep? How does the robin compare to a chickadee in size? Check out the "checkered" plumage on the loon. Find out who else is raiding the garden by turning the pages of this large-format book, perfect for young readers and those who read to them.

Hutchinson resides in Twin Bridges, where she and her husband run the local grocery store. This is her first book, and fulfills a life-long dream!

– Judy Shafter



The Call of the Osprey

By Dorothy Hinshaw Patent with photographs by William Muñoz

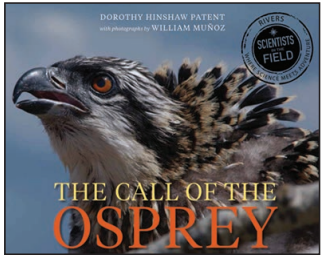
Dorothy Patent's latest book is much more than an exercise in bird watching – it's an observation of a serious study of the effects of mining waste in river water on the local ecology. Because osprey eat fish from contaminated waters, analyzing their blood and tissue can tell scientists which heavy metals are being passed up the food chain and help them make assessments about the dangers to other animals and plants.

The book focuses on a 120-mile stretch of the Clark Fork River flowing from Butte to the site of the former Milltown Dam, east of Missoula. The author and photographer William Muñoz chronicle the work of a team of scientists from The University of Montana and the Raptor View Research Institute as they take blood samples, tag osprey chicks, and collect myriad other scientific data for the Montana Osprey Project.

The book contains a wealth of scientific information, many excellent photographs and profiles of the team of professionals and students working on this important project. It also includes a list of books and internet resources.

Patent, who lives in Missoula, holds a doctorate in zoology and has authored 130 books for young readers. She frequently partners with Muñoz, an accomplished Montana photographer. Learn more about her work at www.dorothyhinshawpatent.com.

– Judy Shafter



Mortal Fall

By Christine Carbo

Like her debut, *The Wild Inside*, Christine Carbo's second mystery novel is set in and around Glacier National Park. Her central character, park police officer Monty Harris, has come to expect fatalities in the park every summer, mostly due to falls and swift-moving cold water. But when he is summoned to rappel down a cliff face off the Going-to-the-Sun Road to retrieve a body, his gut tells him that this incident makes no sense.

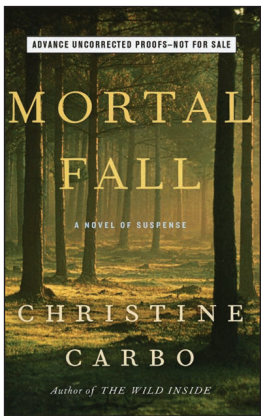
Why would an experienced outdoorsman like wildlife biologist "Wolfie" Sedgewick misstep here, just off a well-traveled trail? Sedgewick was the lead scientist on a study of wolverines and had traversed many miles over rough terrain as part of his project. Things really get complicated when a second body is found, just below the location of the first discovery.

Carbo deftly handles her characters, describing their backgrounds and personalities, and sets the tone for how or why they may be involved in a possible murder, or murders.

"... Carbo guides her readers through an intriguing mystery full of complex relationships and smartly-developed characters," writes Allen Eskins, author of *The Guide of Another*.

The author resides in northwest Montana where she owns and teaches at a Pilates studio, when she's not writing.

– Judy Shafter



Montana, Warts and All, The Best from Our First Decade

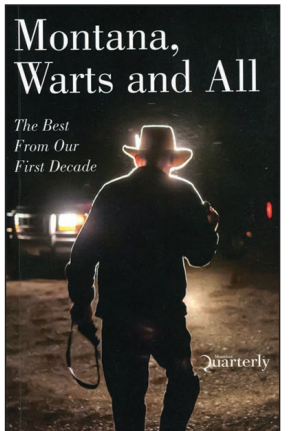
Collected best work from *Montana Quarterly* magazine

This highly readable and difficult-to-put-down book is a fine collection of some of the best articles and stories "written by Montanans about Montanans" for *Montana Quarterly* over its inaugural 10 years of existence.

Some of the authors are well-established names, others may not be as familiar, but all of their stories are equally compelling. There is drama, humor, fact, fiction, history, and more assembled under headings: "Living Wild," "Eating and Drinking," "Truth Tellers," and "First Montanans," to name just a few.

Meet musician Wylie Gustafson and poet Paul Zarzyski in Scott McMillan's piece. Travel with Alan Kesselheim and his family for a "Bittersweet Ride" down the Yellowstone River, and sit on the edge of your seat as Tim Cahill relates how he died ... on a wild river trip. William Kittredge writes poignantly about his reaction to reading A.B. Guthrie's *The Big Sky* for the first time. In the fiction category, Glen Chamberlain's "A Mother Writes a Letter to Her Son" may cause tears to well up, while Craig Lancaster's "Cruelty to Animals" is more likely to incite a chuckle.

– Judy Shafter



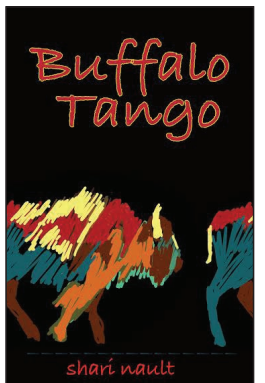
Buffalo Tango

By Shari Nault

Shari Nault's first novel begins in Yellowstone National Park where three Blackfeet, a Sioux and a Crow Indian are framed for a white snowmobiler's accident. The cast of characters includes a pragmatic Blackfeet Fish and Game ranger, his idealistic friend who aims to "save the Rez," a holy man, a genuine bad ass, and a white woman of a "certain age" who thinks they all need rescuing. A grizzly bear and a pot-smoking slacker add to the tableau.

Laced with humor, yet addressing threats to Native peoples, buffalo and sacred places, *Buffalo Tango* is an entertaining story told in an authentic vernacular.

Nault served as the first Montana Cultural Indian Tourism Specialist and was public relations director for both the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY. She now lives in Fromberg (pop. 444) and is at work on two more novels.



ABOUT BOOKS

Anything Goes

By Richard S. Wheeler

Prolific Livingston writer Richard Wheeler – six-time winner of the Spur Award – follows a beleaguered vaudeville troupe through its final few shows in Montana and Idaho.

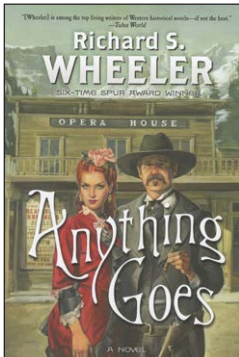
The story opens in Helena, where August Beausoleil and partner Charles Pomerantz are staging a show at the Ming Opera House. The response is lackluster until Mrs. McGivers’s capuchin monkeys begin hurling rotten fruit at the audience. Add a scathing review in the *Independent*, and the opera house is suddenly brimming with patrons, eager for a little comedy, talent and outrage on a cold winter night.

The Beausoleil Brothers Follies travels to the Mining City next, where it loses its most famous member, “nightingale” Mary Mabel Markey, who drops dead of a heart condition on the stage of Maquire’s Grand Opera House. As the troupe scrambles to add acts and reconfigure the show, a mysterious young singer appears, captivating not only Pomerantz, but audiences as well.

Part playful romp, part tribute to the audacity and fortitude of vaudeville performers, *Anything Goes* offers a sympathetic, behind-the-scenes look at an art form in the midst of monumental change.

Wheeler has written more than 50 novels and holds the Owen Wister Award for lifetime contributions to the literature of the West.

– Kristi Niemeyer



Cass Gilbert in Big Sky Country, His Designs for the Montana Club

By Patty Dean

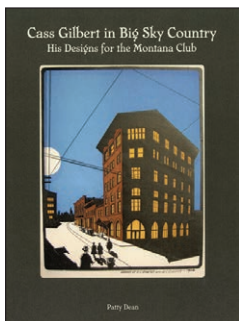
The stately building in downtown Helena that houses the Montana Club was designed by famed architect Cass Gilbert, credited as “Father of the Skyscraper.” Gilbert was commissioned to design the project after a fire in 1903 destroyed the club’s original home.

In this meticulously researched and well-illustrated essay, historian Patty Dean documents the timeline of the design and completion of the building, lauded by the *Helena Daily Record* as a “magnificent structure complete in every detail of furnishing and equipment from Rathskeller to ‘sky floor.’”

Her book contains background information on Gilbert and notes his other projects in the West, including the train depot in Helena and a Northern Pacific railroad hospital in Missoula.

The book is the third in the Montana Architecture Series and was published by Drumlunnon Institute on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the Montana Club. Dean previously edited *Coming Home: The Historic Built Environment and Landscapes of Butte and Anaconda, Montana* for the series.

– Judy Shafter



A Christian in the Land of the Gods, Journey of Faith in Japan

By Joanna Reed Shelton

In 1877, economist Joanna Shelton’s great grandfather, the Reverend Thomas Alexander, and his wife of five months set sail for Japan to establish a Protestant mission and “plant their faith in a country just emerging from two and a half centuries of self-imposed seclusion.”

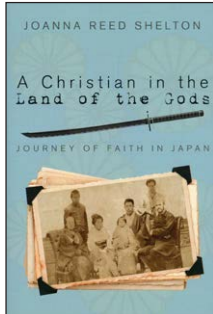
The couple arrived in their newly adopted homeland not knowing a soul or speaking the language. Over the course of 25 years, the Alexanders came to love Japan as much as their native country, embracing the people and culture, and establishing relationships that endured through subsequent generations.

Prior to the author’s first visit to Japan as an economist for the U.S. Treasury, an aunt gifted her with her great grandfather’s journal about his missionary life. Over time, Shelton’s interest deepened and when she made the decision to write her family’s story, she took advice from her aunt who told her, “I want to know what everyday life was like.”

The result is an engaging narrative about people who faced challenges and endured hardships to embrace differences, find grace, and change other people’s lives for the better.

Shelton offers a wealth of history and background information about Japan throughout the book, prior to, and paralleling, the time period that her ancestors resided in the country.

– Judy Shafter



Stranger’s Dance

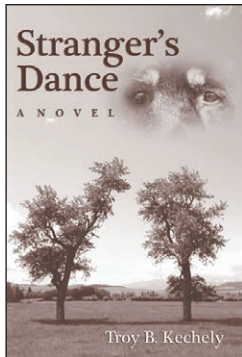
By Troy Kechely

In 1930s Montana, no one kept dogs as pets. Who could afford to give scraps to a stray?

The high ranchlands were spared the worst of the Dust Bowl, but most families still had to find work off the ranch to make ends meet. That’s why Frank Redmond carved tombstones on the side. Even so, he was ready to call it quits and walk away from the ranch, his wife, his father, the creditors. Then the dog showed up.

In *Stranger’s Dance*, Troy Kechely draws from almost 20 years as a canine behavior specialist and a childhood growing up on a ranch west of Helena to tell a story about death and infidelity and how people learn to strike truce in the presence of hard things.

Kechely is also the author of *Management of Aggressive Canines for Law Enforcement*, published in 2011. Learn more at www.troykechely.com.



MARTians

By Blythe Woolston

Life is bleak in the future Zoë Zindleman inhabits. Although she’s a math whiz, especially deft at ratios and percentages, she’s unprepared for the day her school closes because the governor has privatized what’s left of the public school system.

Because she learned her lessons well, she’s invited to apply for entry-level positions at both AllMART (where “your smile is the welcome mat”) and Q-MART (the competing mega-merchandiser).

On the day she graduates, her mother, Anna-Mom, announces she’s leaving to look for work elsewhere, and Zoë moves from their foreclosed house in an empty housing development into the Warren – a deserted strip mall close to her new employer – with other “left behinds.”

She learns how to survive: “Don’t surveil the surveillance!”

And how to direct customers to desired products: “Wanting is only human. Humans are only wants. My purpose is to see tiny seeds of wanting that I can magnify and satisfy.”

Although Woolston writes for teenagers, the future she envisions should terrify readers of any age. *Kirkus Reviews* describes it as “gorgeous and gut-wrenchingly familiar ...”

The Billings writer’s debut young-adult novel, *The Freak Observer*, won the William C. Morris Award. *Black Helicopters* received a High Plains Book Award and was named a Montana Book Award honor book.

– Kristi Niemeyer



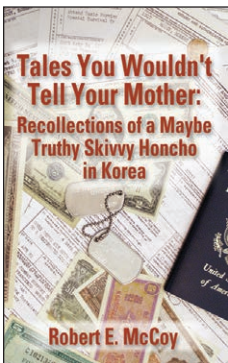
Tales You Wouldn’t Tell Your Mother: Recollections of a Maybe Truthy Skivvy Honcho in Korea

By Robert E. McCoy

Former Air Force linguist and reporter Robert McCoy uniquely chronicles the lives of American airmen stationed in South Korea from the mid 1960s to the early 1980s in his “outlandish” fictional memoir.

Reflections on life are peppered with tales of inspired drinking, creative pranking, and sex – even romance. Both irreverent and disarmingly honest, the book provides comical and compelling observations of interactions among the airmen themselves and their contacts with the people of one of America’s closest allies.

McCoy, who retired from the Air Force in 1982 and now resides in Lolo, has written opinion columns for the Greek edition of *PC Magazine* and the *Missoulain* and his geopolitical essays on Northeast Asia have appeared in *Asia Times*, *Global Asia*, the *Guardian*, *Korea Observer*, and *NK News*. Learn more at musingsbymccoy.com.



Hawthorn: The Tree That Has Nourished, Healed, and Inspired Through the Ages

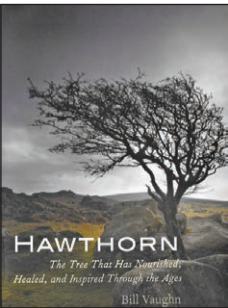
By Bill Vaughn

One of humankind’s oldest companions, the hawthorn tree, is bound up in the memories of every recorded age and the plot lines of cultures all across the Northern Hemisphere. Set in Montana, China, Tasmania, and Europe, Bill Vaughn’s book examines the little-recognized political, cultural and natural history of this ancient spiky plant.

Used for thousands of years in the impenetrable living fences that defined the landscapes of Europe, the hawthorn eventually helped feed the class antagonism that led to widespread social upheaval. In the American Midwest, hawthorn-inspired hedges on the prairies made 19th century farming economically rewarding for the first time. Later, in Normandy, mazelike hedgerows bristling with these thorns nearly cost the Allies World War II.

In just over 200 pages, Vaughn shines light on the full scope of the tree’s influence over human events. As entertaining as it is illuminating, this book is the first full appreciation of the hawthorn’s abundant connections with humanity.

The Missoula author writes for many publications about topics ranging from adventure sports to fashion to the paper industry. Also a graphic artist, he has designed more than 400 books.



Yellowstone National Park Coloring Book

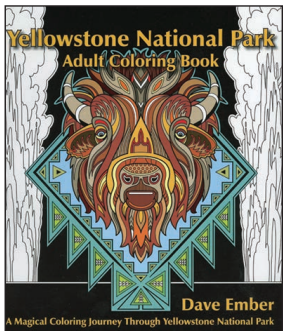
We’re accustomed to seeing our first national park portrayed in photographs and paintings. But thanks to award-winning graphic artist Dave Ember, we can now color in our own version of the park’s majestic scenery and iconic animals with the new *Yellowstone National Park Adult Coloring Book: A Magical Coloring Journey Through Yellowstone National Park*.

Fans of the genre can put their skills to work, shading in the park’s many natural wonders and scenic places. Ember has created beautifully intricate drawings of a wide variety of wildlife, spouting geysers, thermal features, and some of the park’s historic buildings.

The book contains a map of the park and interpretive text for each image, 43 in all, printed on extra-heavy paper. Eight postcards and four bookmarks at the back of the book can be easily removed and shared with friends and family.

So sharpen your pencils and prepare to create your own colorful rendition of the nation’s first national park. Learn more at www.farcountrypress.com.

– Judy Shafter



11

Meadowlark Award offered for women writers

The Meadowlark Award, formerly given after an annual short-story writing contest for Montana college students, has been reconfigured as a biennial book award for women writers. Under the new guidelines, the award’s \$1,000 cash prize is augmented with a book contract from Riverbend Publishing in Helena. Application deadline for the 2017 award is Dec. 31, 2016.

The award is open to women writers who have never published a book, and the book must be based in or substantially about Montana. It may be fiction or nonfiction, including memoirs, essays, adventure, travel, novels, and short-story collections.

Entries will be judged by the executors of the Meadowlark Award and by Chris Cauble, Riverbend’s publisher, with assistance from various Montana authors, editors, and booksellers.

The award is named for the book, *When the Meadowlark Sings*, written by Nedra Sterry when she was 82 years old about growing up along Montana’s Hi-Line. For details, visit www.riverbendpublishing.com.



12

CREATIVZ: Join the conversation

The newest component of the National Endowment for the Arts' Creativity Connects initiative, CREATIVZ, is designed to inspire a conversation about what artists in the United States need to sustain and strengthen their careers.

As part of the NEA's 50th anniversary initiative – Creativity Connects – the research project shines a spotlight on how the arts contribute to the nation's creative ecosystem.

Over the next few months the interactive website, creativz.us, will publish a series of essays by a variety of artists and arts thinkers. The goal is to hear from as many artists and artist support providers as possible; a report will be published and available in June.

To participate:

- Share and join the conversation with artist friends and supporters.

- Add comments to any of the essays on the website or use your favorite social app to say something. If you use social media, please use the hashtag #creativz so we see it.

- Share or follow CREATIVZ on Facebook and Twitter.

Reviewing the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990

By Bill Frazier ©2016

This article is prepared at the request of Arni Fishbaugh, executive director of the Montana Arts Council, for the benefit of Montana's artists with works of visual art on public display.

The Visual Artists Rights Act, commonly referred to as VARA, appears in Title 17 USCA §106A, which is the copyright portion of the United States Code. It was passed by Congress to amend the copyright law and add additional protections for a limited category of visual artists.

This law has been both inconsistently interpreted and inconsistently enforced, with the result that it is not well understood by the art community. In fact, I would venture to say that it is not well understood by anyone!

It is not absolute and its provisions can be waived by the artist. It applies only to visual artists – for example, painters, sculptors, photographers and print makers – with limited editions of 200 or less, all of which work is designed for public display. It applies only to living artists and to work produced after June 1, 1990, for public exhibition or display. The act is very limited in scope and arguably would not apply to most artists or artwork.

It is questionable whether it would apply to typical consigned artwork in commercial galleries, or work prepared for sale through the variety of auctions proliferating throughout the art world.

Designed to protect artists

VARA is designed to enhance the artist's protection for work which is on public display, for example murals on the side of buildings, statues or other sculpture in a city park or other such location, or work in public buildings and sculpture parks, subject to a number of conditions.

One of the most significant conditions is that the artist can waive the protections of this law by signing a waiver provision in the commissioning contract with a public agency or other organization or building owner. Be careful what you sign, and if these protections are important to you, be sure that you are not waiving them.

The protection lasts for the life of the artist only. Although it is a part of the copyright law, it does not extend additional protection as does a regular copyright for the life of the artist plus 70 years.

As to what work is actually protected, there are inconsistencies, but here is what the law is intended to protect, what is often called artists' moral rights:

Attribution

- The right to claim authorship or work created by the artist;
- The right to prevent the artist's name from being associated with work he did not create;
- The artist's right to prevent his own work from being attributed to him if it has been modified in such a way as to damage his artistic or professional reputation or honor.

Integrity

- The right to prevent the intentional modification of the work if it would adversely

affect one's reputation;

- The right to prevent any intentional destruction or damage to the work if it is of "recognized stature." This would be work that the arts community, art experts or society in general considers to be significant.

A court cannot make this determination by itself. This does not include damage due to the elements outside in a park, for example, or passage of time. There seems to be some debate as to whether the owner, city park for instance, has an affirmative obligation to maintain the artwork in good condition, however.

Violations of VARA

Violation of the above proscriptions may get museums, galleries and collectors in trouble if they display an artist's work in a manner inconsistent with the artist's intentions or design. This may happen where the work is a multiple piece installation or a single piece consisting of several parts or elements, and the museum or other owner displays it in different pieces or separates the parts, as in a triptic.

Another example would be where the artist designs a work of public art for a specific location and the city or other owner, without good reason, moves it to another location without the artist's consent. Each situation is unique and there have been very few cases and interpretations of the law.

VARA applies to cities, counties, states and governmental agencies as well as to private landowners. An example, known to many Montana sculptors, occurred in one of our larger cities whereby the city through a local agency attempted to organize a sculpture park.

Sculptors installed work at the request of the agency, damage occurred through either vandalism or negligence of the agency, the artists requested the agreed-upon insurance coverage, coverage was denied, and the agency and city refused to assist in repair of the damaged work. Very shabby!

In the above Montana example, I believe this was a violation of the VARA. All of the work would have passed the "significant stature" threshold, the work was damaged while on display in a public venue, and, while not a requirement of VARA, the promised and contracted-for insurance coverage was never provided.

In the case of a mural, or installed work in a building, there is VARA protection if the work can be removed without damage or alteration. The building owner must give the artist a 90-day notice to remove. If the artist either fails to respond or remove the work, he waives the VARA protections. If the artist does remove, or intend to remove, the work, many variables come into play, again bringing up the inconsistencies I mentioned earlier.

Only the artist can claim protection under VARA. It does not apply to his estate, and the artist's VARA rights cannot be assigned or transferred to another. An owner, such as a city or museum, cannot claim the protections under the act, so the benefits are limited.

If an artist installs work on another's property without permission, the VARA does not apply. For example, if an artist installed work in the city park without the permission of the city, and the city later removed the item, the artist would have no recourse. In contrast, once a city or other entity accepts a public artwork, the VARA protections apply.

Violations of VARA can generate substantial monetary penalties, the possibility of restraining orders, legal fees and court costs, including statutory damages up to \$150,000.

The extent to which VARA applies to work in private collections and offered for sale in commercial galleries is unclear. Again there are many conditions and uncertain application and enforcement.

If you or an organization under your care owns or controls artwork designed for public display, you should familiarize yourself with the provisions of VARA and consider how it might apply to your situation. I would encourage museums, cities and other public and governmental entities with art work on public display, owned or on loan, to insure that they have insurance coverage for potential VARA violations.

VARA is designed to enhance the artist's protection for work which is on public display ... The protection lasts for the life of the artist only.

DeWeese website serves as reference and retrospective

The DeWeese family recently collaborated on a new website, www.deweeseart.com, designed as an archival reference and retrospective exhibition of the lifeworks of Bob and Gennie DeWeese. The site is also an educational resource for present and future generations of contemporary artists, students, researchers and appreciators of the arts.

Both arts educators, Bob and Gennie were a "hub" of social and intellectual exchange among the Montana State University community in Bozeman, and throughout the broader network of artists in the state. From the 50s, this influence extended through a ripple effect nationally and internationally as students and colleagues moved on and maintained connections personally and through creative communities.

The intersection of lives and disciplines and the crossover of ideas flourished



New website, www.deweeseart.com, is both a guide and homage to two pioneering Montana artists, Gennie and Bob DeWeese.

through a vital period of that movement through the state.

Works by the modernist painters and printmakers exist in major collections of Montana's contemporary art museums, as well as in homes of friends, colleagues and family.

The vitality and innovation of the contemporary art community in the state can be rooted back to a time of initiation that was nurtured for many decades by Bob and

Gennie. Their hospitality and generosity remain dear in the hearts and memories of many, and their work is cherished.

This website offers a window into the contributions of this prolific and influential couple and places their work in a greater historical context and cultural movement.

Both prolific artists, Bob and Gennie left hundreds of images of their work behind. Drawn from thematic files, the Preview images represent the range of the full bodies

of their collected works.

Initially there are two galleries (with more to come): Bob's "Wolny Hill" from 1982-89 and Gennie's Non-Objective paintings from the 1940s to 2007.

The photo album of the DeWeeses offers memories and insight into their dynamic, spirited and soulful lives. There are also links to the websites of DeWeese family members and spouses.

ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Doug Turman, “Here and There: An Italian Journey”

Through Aug. 28 at the Holter Museum of Art, Helena

Doug Turman shows new and collected paintings from a 12-year journey to and from Italy.



“It All Makes Sense Now” by Doug Turman

A journey begins with a moment in time. Doug Turman’s began when, in 2004, he traveled from his home in Helena to Italy for the first time. Italy was a place that had already figured prominently in his imagination, and a place of tremendous beauty. It’s imbued with a cultural tradition so rich “that to be influenced and inspired by it was inevitable.”

For Turman, that influence first appeared in the handcrafted Italian

Earth Oil paints he began to use. These pigments represent the physical and emotional landscape that help illuminate his Italian journey.

Turman’s artworks are manifestations of memories, impressions, and passions. After returning to Italy again and again, his paintings express a depth of feeling and complexity that has an emotional impact impossible to capture in a photograph.

“Because Italy is so intoxicating visually, you would think that that’s the natural starting point,” he told the *Independent Record* in a story published May 13. “I find now ... it’s coming from a much more emotional space. ... It’s just start and see what happens.”

Turman and his wife, Mary Lee Larison, are proprietors of the Turman Larison Contemporary, a gallery in downtown Helena that exhibits contemporary artists of national and international reputation.

Gary Little, “Re-Discover Montana’s Mountains: A Sculpted 3-D Art Show”

July 5-Aug. 31 at Copper Village Museum and Art Center,

Anaconda

Billings artist and designer Gary Little sculpts intricate bas-relief friezes of Montana’s most striking mountain-scapes in terra-cotta clay.

Little began his art career creating illustrations for professors while getting a degree in botany at The University of Montana. While his graphic art is a commercial success, his passion is the making of hand-painted terra-cotta friezes.

He describes these wall sculptures in fired clay as “an out-pouring of his love for Montana’s mountains.” Each piece defines geographic features familiar to that mountain range as seen while traveling Montana’s scenic highways.



“Emigrant Peak” by Gary Little

Little purposely picks familiar scenes to increase the odds of an “ah-ha!” moment of recognition by the viewer. Via his sculptures and a newly published *Glovebox Guide to Recognizing Montana’s Mountains* he hopes to increase awareness and knowledge of the 50 or so mountain ranges that provide the common backdrop of our lives here.

Working from photos that show the tallest mountains in a range appropriately, he creates an original sculpture. He then makes a plaster mould from that, and pours slip (watery clay) into that mould to get a “blank” clay impression. These moulds can weigh up to 100 pounds.

Before the clay hardens he refines the texture and ridge details, sculpting the relief into each piece. When the clay dries he cuts it into tiles and fires it, then pressure glues the tiles together again, creating a three-dimensional canvas of terra cotta clay. He applies paint to the frieze with syringes and airbrushes water over it to let gravity feed the colors into the surface, “just like nature does with freshly fallen snow on rocky escarpments.”

He’s been perfecting the process since 2006, and especially likes to create pieces from “wild clay,” mined from clay deposits shed from the actual mountains he depicts. Little says he has “big ideas” for public installations “where more people can enjoy them.”

Linda Abbott, “Bristle and Blade, Landscape Interpretations”

Through July at Gallatin River Gallery, Big Sky

Artist’s website: lindaabbottart.com

Linda Abbott, a resident of both Montana and California, shares new paintings, both plein-air landscapes and studio studies, that illuminate the essence of Montana’s landscapes.

Born and raised in California and a graduate of UCLA, Abbott taught art to high school students in Glendale, CA, before living and working in Yosemite National Park for 30 years. She and her family also spent eight years in Yellowstone National Park.

Abbott has held membership in Oil Painters of America, the Ameri-

can Impressionist Society, and California Art Club, and has participated in several juried exhibitions.

A self-described plein-air painter who works primarily in oils, Abbott says she doesn’t typically work from photographs or even drawings. “I prefer the outdoor setting and dealing with all the information that surrounds me,” she says. “I paint wherever I am – there is always something interesting, challenging, and beautiful to be found for the painter.”

That said, Abbott’s latest body of work arose in the studio and is based on previous plein-air paintings, drawings, photographs and memories. “This is studio work,” she says. “No swatting insects, watching shadows shift or the sun go down, no watching approaching rain, my wristwatch, etc.”

In “Bristle and Blade,” she also makes “huge use” of the palette knife to apply paint, as well as brush strokes. “I have also pushed color beyond nature, seeking instead beautiful harmonies inspired by nature.” All the scenes, she adds, are based on locations from Big Sky to Yellowstone.



“Hot Reflection” by Linda Abbott

Renato Faustini, “Primordial”

Aug. 5-Sept. 2 at Stumptown Art Studio, Whitefish

Artist’s website: www.faustiniart.com

Exploration of ancient vessels and their elaborate decoration has given Brazilian-born artist Renato Faustini great respect for the artistry and creativity of the aboriginal people of Arizona and around the world.

As a child, he had easy access to the secrets of his aunt’s backyard jungle with its noisy birds and hidden creatures. He had a boy’s messy freedom to coat his hands in earth and water.

Influenced by the first people, the ceramic artist still feels connected through time and spirit with his ancestors. “We are all working from the same mound of clay,” he says. “It’s magical.”

At Arizona State University, where he studied in the 1970s, Faustini fine-tuned his technical skills in clay. He’s also an architectural designer and sole proprietor of Faustini Art, and currently a resident artist at Stumptown Art Studio.

Most cultures developed pottery in ancient times, he notes. The leap from earth and water to the digitalized world of architectural design is not as radical as it may seem.

Faustini finds the process of designing dwellings and making pottery fundamentally the same. Whether hand-coiling clay or using state-of-the-art architectural software, it’s still about creating a product that’s beautiful, symmetrical and harmonious with its intended environment. At their essence, pottery and architectural design are both outward expressions of inward energy and organic reflections of their designer, he notes.



“Pottery Discoveries” by Renato Faustini

“Bicycle Eclectic: Photographs by Greg Siple”

June 30-Aug. 27 at the Missoula Art Museum, with a reception noon-2 p.m. July 17

In the summer of 1972, four intrepid cyclists set off on an epic journey to pedal the geographic length of the Americas. Two couples from Missoula, Greg and June Siple and Dan and Lys Burden, planned to ride their bicycles from Anchorage, AK, to the southern tip of Argentina. At the end of their first summer, the riders arrived in Missoula with \$100 between them.

Fortunately, *National Geographic* magazine agreed to give full support for them to continue their journey. In 1973, it published a feature story about the zealous foursome and their arduous 3,000-mile voyage from Anchorage to Missoula. That story is said to have helped usher in the modern era of cycling in America.

While finishing their trip to Argentina, the group conceived of a transcontinental bike trek to celebrate the upcoming American Bicentennial in 1976. They mapped a route and got the word out to media outlets across the country. The summer-long event was called Bikecentennial and more than 4,000 riders participated. This was the beginning of what is now the Adventure Cycling Association (ACA), headquartered in Missoula.

Since 1982, Siple has been photographing cyclists that stop at the ACA office while riding across the country. He has collected more than 4,000 images that capture the unique stories and personalities of each rider.

Missoula Art Museum helps celebrate the 40th anniversary of Bikecentennial and ACA, and Siple’s lifelong dedication to bicycling with this exhibition of his black-and-white portraits.



“Bicycle Eclectic” by Greg Siple

About Visual Artists is compiled by Kristi Niemeyer



13

Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the three months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist’s work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi and 500kb);
- A brief bio and description of the artist’s work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the October-December 2016 issue is Sept. 1. Send submissions to writesus@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.



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Tippet Rise hosts summer concert series

Tippet Rise Art Center, a new cultural destination near Fishtail, is hosting a seven-week concert season, June 17 -Aug. 21.

The inaugural season, curated by music director and acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley, includes a series of solo recitals by pianists known for their thoughtful, emotive, and individualistic musicianship. The series also showcases Tippet Rise's growing collection of extraordinary pianos.

The season's 20 concerts will be performed at sites throughout Tippet Rise's 11,500 acres, in settings that include the 150-seat Olivier Barn, the open-sided Tiara band shell, and the sculptural, open-air Domo, as well as at the site of select sculptures.

"For this inaugural season, we have selected music inspired by the environment, in keeping with the Art Center's goal of restoring the profound, felt connection between the power of nature and the deep patterns of art," said O'Riley. "We believe this is a season in which music will ring true from the mountaintops."

For additional information and tickets, visit www.tippetrise.org.

SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE

COMPILED BY *LIVELY TIMES*

Music pours outdoors in Montana each summer. Here's our guide to summer festivals, courtesy of *Lively Times*.

Billings and Eastern Montana:

Magic City Blues Festival: Aug. 5-6

on Montana Ave. The 2500 block is rockin' once again with Montana's urban music festival. Now in its 14th year, the festival opens Friday with headliners Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Elle King. Ziggy Marley is Saturday's crown jewel. Other performers include Guthrie Brown and the Family Tree, Jared Stewart, and the Altered Five Blues Band (406-534-0400 or www.magiccityblues.com)

Miles City Bluegrass Festival: Sept.

16-18 at the Eastern Montana Fairgrounds in Miles City. High Plains Tradition, The Wood-Picks, Song Dog Serenade, Lochwood, Gold Heart, and The Buckleys perform at the 19th annual alcohol-free, family-style festival (406-234-2480 or 406-853-1678 or www.milescitybluegrassfestival.com).

Bozeman, Livingston & Big Sky

Montana Chamber Music Festival featuring the members of the Muir Quartet and Guests: July 14 at MSU Reynolds Recital Hall (406-587-0245) and July 15 at the Rainbow Ranch in Big Sky (406-284-2677). Members of the renowned foursome join acclaimed guest artists, including pianist Michele Levin, horn-player William Scharnberg, bassoonist Kathleen Reynolds and cellist Sara Stalnaker (montanachambermusicsociety.org).

Moods of the Madison Music Fest: July 15-16 at the North 40 in

Ennis. Headliners include Bassnectar, Young the Giant, Wolfgang Gartner, The Wailers, Rising Appalachia, and Sol. Also taking the stage: Robert Randolph and the Family Band, The Russ Liquid Test, Maxwell Hughes, Farch, One Leaf Clover, Lecture, and many more. Food, art and craft vendors, and kids' activities add to the fun (406-579-1256 or www.moodsofthemadison.com).

Summerfest Along the Yellowstone: July 15 at Miles Park in Livingston: Western Skies launches the annual festival, followed by the Bus Driver Tour and The Max (406-222-8155 or livingstonmontana.org).

The Livingston Hoot: 4-10 p.m. Aug. 4 in downtown Livingston. Twenty-time Grammy winner Vince Gill joins fabled songwriter Rodney Crowell and special guest Paul Franklin. Fishing Music with Mollie O'Brien opens the show. In addition to top-notch music, this free community event brings food and family fun to the historic downtown (406-920-1149 or www.livingstonhoot.com).

Sweet Pea Festival: Aug. 5-7 at Lindley Park in Bozeman. Chalk on the Walk (Aug. 2) and the Bite of Bozeman (Aug. 3) lead up to the giant arts festival, which features a juried art show, flower show, run, a parade and children's activities. Beginning Friday, there's a big bouquet of entertainment in the park, including music, dance and theatre by more than 30 performers. Musical headliners include Aubrie Sellers and Asleep at the Wheel on Friday; Hollow Wood, Paa Kow, Joshua James, James McMurtry and Sonny Knight and The Lakers on Saturday; and the John Dover Quartet, Ethan Tucker Band and Hard Working Americans on Sunday (406-586-4003 or sweetpeafestival.org).

SLAM Fest: Aug. 6-7 at Bogert Park in Bozeman. Annual festival features art for all tastes and budgets, a multitude of musical performances spanning many genres, movement

performances, artist demonstrations, kids' activities, a libation garden, and food (406-599-1233 or www.slamfestivals.org).

Big Sky Classical Music Festival:

Aug. 12-14 in Big Sky. The sixth annual festival opens Friday with Ana Vidovic, one of the world's most celebrated guitarists, performing with acclaimed violinist Angella Ahn at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The festival continues Saturday at Town Center Park with M5 Mexican Brass Ensemble from Mexico City. On Sunday, the Big Sky Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Peter Bay, offers a free Latin-hued concert featuring Vidovic (406-995-2742 or bigskyarts.org).

An Evening at the Arch: Yellowstone Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial: 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at Arch Park in Gardiner.

Yellowstone National Park and its partners host a special Centennial event to kick off the second century of the National Park Service. Performers include Emmylou Harris, John Prine, Leyla McCalla, a children's chorus, The Singing Angels from Cleveland, and



Magic City Blues: Kenny Wayne Shepherd



Moods of the Madison: Young the Giant

(Photo by Peter Van Hattem)

Teddy Roosevelt re-enactor Joe Wiegand. Local, state, and national dignitaries will also speak. Tickets are free but limited, and will be released June 15 and July 15 via www.ticketriver.com (406-848-7971).

Butte & Southwest Montana

St Timothy's Summer Music Festival: 4 p.m. Sundays, June 26, July 17

and 24, and Aug. 7 and 21 at St. Timothy's Chapel, high above Georgetown Lake. Montana native and acclaimed keyboardist and composer Philip Aaberg launches this year's festival June 26. The series continues July 17 with the Montana Chamber Music Society, featuring Muir Quartet members and guests performing selections from Mozart, Anthony Plog, Edward Elgar, and Franz Schubert; and Bozeman-based vocalist Jeni Fleming delivering some of the best music of the American songbook, July 24. The Young Montana Musicians Spotlight Aug. 7 features Stephanie Anderson on trumpet, Breana McCullough on viola, and Erin Equall on piano, and Cami Kohler on violin; and the series concludes Aug. 21 with the acclaimed String Orchestra of the Rockies (888-407-4071 ext.1 or www.sttimothysmusic.org).

Montana Folk Festival: July 8-10 in Uptown Butte. Sixth annual festival features performances and demonstrations by more than 20 of the nation's finest musicians and dancers, who entertain on six stages. A sampling of this year's line-up: Marquise Knox, St. Louis blues; Grammy-winning Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, zydeco; the Jerry Greevitch Orchestra, Croatian string music; Adonis Puentes and the Voice of Cuba Orchestra; Cree and Salish singer Fawn Wood; De Temps Antan, traditional Quebec

music; Debashish Bhattacharya, Indian slide guitar; The Virginia Luthiers, a group of the Blue Ridge Mountains' finest pickers; 11-year-old Carson Peters, or "Fiddlin' Carson Peters," and the Iron Mountain Band; and Jason D. Williams, a boogie-woogie pianist from Memphis. Food courts, marketplaces and a family area are also among the offerings at the free festival (406-497-6464 or montanafolkfestival.com).

An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival:

Aug. 12-14 at the Original Mine Yard in Butte. This celebration of Irish culture and heritage features Montana and Irish authors, musicians and dancers, art, crafts, food, and children's activities. This year's performers include The Elders, Gailfean, Makem and Spain, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, Kevin Doyle, the Trinity Irish Dancers and local faves, Dublin Gulch (406-498-3983 or www.mtgaelic.org).

Rockin' the Rivers: Aug. 12-14 at

The Bridge on the Jefferson River Canyon in Three Forks. The three-day rock festival boasts more than 30 bands on two stages. Friday's featured performers are Vince Neil (the voice of Motley Crue), Firehouse, Cinderella's Tom Keifer, Steelheart and Hells Belles. Saturday's headliners include Buckcherry, Royal Bliss, Ratt, Windowpane and Mojo Nixon. Sunday brings Loverboy, Survivor, Hotel California (an Eagles tribute), and Heart by Heart. Get in the mood with Thursday's free pre-party (866-285-0097 or www.rockintherivers.com).

Aber Day Reunion Concert: Aug. 20 at Winninghoff Park in Philipsburg. The Aber

Day Kegger reprises its celebrated union of charity and revelry for the second time in 37 years with a reunion concert featuring the Mission Mountain Wood Band alongside Montana favorites, The Big Sky Mudflaps and the Li'l Smokies. The benefit raises money for the Philipsburg Community Library and other local projects (406-859-3517 or www.grizalum.com).

Original Festival: Sept. 9-10 at the Original Mine Yard in Butte. Fourth annual event features Ghostface Killah, famed hip-hop MC from the Wu-Tang Clan. Eighteen acts appear on two stages, and cover the genre gamut, including bluegrass, rock, blues, hip-hop, indie/alternative, folk, funk, electronic, and more. After-parties take place each night (406-498-3549 or www.ogfest.org).

Central Montana

Bluegrass Festival: July 2 at the

Choteau Pavilion. Sample Montana beers and other beverages while enjoying bluegrass by The Gated Community and The Dirt Farmers (406-466-5316 or www.choteaumontana.us).

Red Ants Pants Music Festival: July 28-31 at the Jackson Ranch in White Sulphur Springs. Each July, folks from far and wide gather in a cow pasture for four nights and three days of

music, community and awe-inspiring sunsets. Grammy-winning country legend Wynonna and The Big Noise and global superstars The Mavericks take top billing at this year's festival; other headliners include The Lone Bellow,

Corb Lund, Hayes Carll and Montana's own Mission Mountain Wood Band. The mix of Americana legends and rising stars also features Ray Wylie Hubbard, Hurray for the Riff Raff, Dar Williams, Shinyribs, The McCrary Sisters, Eilen Jewell, and more. A portion of proceeds goes to the Red Ants Pants Foundation, which fosters self-reliance and women's leadership, and promotes family farms and ranches. Festivities begin Thursday with a free square dance and street dance (406-547-3781 or redantspantsmusicfestival.com).



Red Ants Pants: Wynonna and The Big Noise

SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE

COMPILED BY *LIVELY TIMES*

Lincolntstock V: Aug. 6 at Hooper Park in Lincoln. The fifth annual free music extravaganza, which coincides with Art in the Park, features four of Montana's finest: Erik "Fingers" Ray, Wylie and Wild West, Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs and Vintage (406-362-7000 or lincolnmontana.com).

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous:

Aug. 11-14 at Fergus High School and other venues in Lewistown. Riders in the Sky headline the 31st annual event, performing Saturday night; the fellas also share their story and answer questions at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. The gathering – the second oldest of its kind in the country – features a chuckwagon supper and mini-show Thursday, MC'd by cowboy poet Lloyd McKenna and his songbird wife, Meryl McKenna; a Jam 'n Dance on Friday, featuring songwriter Steven Ray Hughes. On Saturday, the Judith Mountain Players pretend to shoot Rattlesnake Jake on Main Street and then perform "Wanted: One Wife"; breakfast and Cowboy Poetry Church send visitors on their way Sunday morning. More than 50 hourly sessions of cowboy poetry and music and a Western Art and Gear Show are also on tap (406-538-4575 or montanacowboypoeetrygathering.com).

WildFest: Sept. 9-10 at Giant Springs Heritage State Park. The Montana Wilderness Association's two-day festival celebrates Montana's wild places with hikes, activities and live outdoor music. Friday evening features Rob and Halladay Quist, with their classic country blues and hip bluegrass rock. Saturday evening showcases the raw, blues-driven sound of Bozeman-based Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs (406-443-7350 or wildmontana.org/wildfest).

Boulder Music and Arts Festival: Sept. 10-11 at Veterans' Park in Boulder. Browse books, art and crafts and savor the end of summer to tunes by professional and local Montana musicians during the ninth annual event (406-465-2106 or www.bouldermitchamber.org).

Montana State Fiddle Contest: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Choteau. The 48th annual string-slinger showdown kicks off with a contest and street dance on Friday. Open- and state-certified contests run all day Saturday (406-467-2866 or www.montanafiddlers.org).

Flathead & Mission Valleys

Hot Springs Blues Festival: July 27 and 29-30 at the Symes Hotel in Hot Springs. Seventh annual event kicks off Wednesday with Too Slim and the Taildraggers, and genre-bending bluesman John Kelley performs Friday. Saturday's line-up includes Rafael Tranquilino, the Mike Bader Band, Zeppo Blues, and Kevin Van Dort (406-741-2361).

Flathead Lake Blues Festival: Aug. 19-20 at Salish Point in Polson. Sixth annual event offers spectacular views of Flathead Lake and two days of world-class blues. This year's roster includes Robin Barrett and Coyote Kings with Tiph Danes, CD Woodbury Band, Polly O'Keary and The Rhythm Method, Randy Oxford's All Star Slam!, Blue Moon, The Shufflebums, West Coast Women's Blues Revue and The Chris O'Leary Band (406-646-6816 or flatheadlakebluesfestival.com). The blues confab coincides with the Flathead Lake Festival of Art Saturday and Sunday at adjacent Sacajawea Park (406-883-5956).

Glacier Symphony's Festival Amadeus: 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8-14 at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center. Acclaimed guest soloists and the Festival Amadeus Orchestra join forces for the week-long classical festi-



River City Roots and Livingston Hoot: Rodney Crowell
(Photo by David McClister)

val. The chamber series includes performances by the Shtrykov-Tanaka Duo on clarinet and piano, Aug. 8; the Fry Street Quartet with Sooyun Kim, Aug. 9; and music for trumpet and piano by Mary Elizabeth Bowden and Stephen Beus, Aug. 11. The festival orchestra performs works by Mozart and Schubert, Aug. 10, and works by Mozart and Haydn, Aug. 13; and the orchestra's string section joins the Fry Street Quartet for "Baroque Extravaganza," Aug. 12. The festival wraps up Aug. 14 in grand fashion with the Schumann Pastoral Finale, featuring pianist Beus. Concerts are also slated for Bigfork, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9-11 at St. John Paul II Catholic Church (406-407-7000 or www.gscmusic.org).

Riverfront Blues Festival:

Aug. 12-13 at Riverfront Park in Libby. Eighth annual bash offers two days of top-notch entertainment. Harlis Sweetwater is back with wild, bluesy guitar playing and a gravelly soulful voice; and Colorado native Austin Young picked up his first guitar at age 12 and hasn't put it down since. Also performing are Black Mountain Moan, the Chris O'Leary Band, Hot Flash Blues Band, Cee Cee James, Phil Berkowitz and Jimmy D. Lane (406-293-1661 or www.riverfrontbluesfestival.com).

Crown Guitar Festival: Aug. 28-Sept. 3 at Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork. The guitar masters who teach at the seventh annual Crown of the Continent Guitar Workshop take the stage, offering locals the opportunity to hear some of the finest guitar players in the world. Jim Messina and his band and Josh Turner kick off the festival Sunday, Aug. 28. At the Monday concert, jazz prodigy Julian Lage plays with Grammy artist Chris Eldridge, from the Punch Brothers band, and Argentinean-born virtuoso and composer Gonzalo Bergara is joined by 19-year-old guitarist Max O'Rourke for a set of Gypsy jazz; Nashville recording legend Brent Mason and special guests perform Tuesday, along with Liz Longley; hear valley favorite Lee Ritenour with Melvin Davis and band on Thursday. Friday is the students' night on stage, and includes faculty and guest artists. The Crown finale Saturday, Sept. 3, boasts three full sets with rocker Shane Theriot, Grammy artist Dweezil Zappa, and Andy Aledort (855-855-5900 or www.crownguitarfest.org).

Missoula & Western Montana

International Choral Festival: July 13-16 in downtown Missoula. Sixteen choirs from around the globe participate in the 10th triennial festival, representing Hong Kong, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Cuba, Poland, Georgia, the Philippines, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Choirs from the

U.S. hail from Washington, Iowa and Montana. The festival offers 20 public performances, beginning with free preview concerts on Wednesday, July 13, at Caras Park, Southgate Mall and Bonner Park, and culminating Saturday with the Finale Concert and Parade of Nations at the UM Adams Center. Other highlights include a Conductor's Seminar, "Choral Music from Around the World," 9 a.m. July 14 at the UM Music Recital Hall; the Choir Crawl, 1:30-5 p.m. Thursday, and evening concerts, 7-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday at various venues (406-721-7985 or www.choralfestival.org).

Bob Marshall Music Festival:

July 15-16 at Seeley Lake Elementary School. Two-day festival includes performances by Shooter Jennings, Parsonsfield, Honey-Honey, Run Boy Run, The Last Revel, The Kitchen Dwellers, Camila Meza, Jack Gladstone, Philip Aaberg, The Josh Farmer Band, Metaphorical Lions, Chad Ball, and Cash for Junkers. (406-396-5880 or www.thebobmusic.com).

Montana Baroque Music Festival, "Baroque Bells and Whistles": 7 p.m. July 19-21 at Quinn's Hot Springs in Paradise.

The 13th annual festival showcases national and international players of baroque music and instruments, with a different program nightly. The first two nights highlight the talents of founder, violinist Monica Huggett, and Matthias Maute on baroque flute and recorder. Thursday's performance adds a new face to the ensemble: trumpeter Kris Kwapis (406-826-3600 or montana-baroque-music-festival.com).

Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival: July 22-24 at 163 Forest Hill Road in Hamilton. Celebrate the

sounds of traditional bluegrass music with concerts, contests, and lots of jamming. The Trinity River Band from Florida, Kevin Pace and The Early Edition from Spokane, Portneuf Gap from Idaho, and the Ladd Canyon Ramblers from Oregon join Montana bands Lochwood, Spring Thaw, the Brothers Parker, Gravely Mountain, Pinegrass, the Darby Sireens, and Mike and Tari Conroy. The festival also highlights Pioneers in Northwest Bluegrass and Kids in Bluegrass (406-821-3777 or hardtimesbluegrass.com).

Celtic Festival Missoula: July 29-30 at Caras Park. Celebration of Celtic music, food and dance includes performances by the Red Hot Chili Pipers from Scotland plus several local favorites (406-239-0105).

Big Sky Rhythm and Blues Festival: Aug. 5-7 at Pilgrim Creek Park in Noxon. Ten bands fuel the annual festival, which kicks off Friday with a pig roast and wraps up Sunday with an all-star jam. In-between hear music by Jimmy D. Lane, the Rafael Tranquilino Band with Leah Tussing and Sweet Danny Ray, and more (406-827-4210 or bigskyblues.com).

Zootown Fringe Festival: Aug. 16-21 in downtown Missoula. Fourth annual performance art smörgåsbord continues to celebrate alternative theater and visual art, offering an avenue for performers to showcase bold, fresh and original live works while providing audiences the opportunity to experience the outer-limits of performing arts (406-544-4606 or www.zootownfringe.org).

River City Roots Fest: Aug. 26-27 in downtown Missoula. Songwriter Rodney Crowell and multi-instrumentalist Darrell Scott are among the performers at the 11th annual festival. Friday's Main Stage line-up includes Gipse Moon, Fruition, Scott and the Lil' Smokies. Music begins at 12:30 p.m. Saturday with Missoula's own Whizpops, followed by the Goodtime Travelers, Sol Driven Train, the Jeff Austin Band, and Crowell. In addition, the free festival includes a juried art show, a run, Family Fun Fest, and a paddleboard contest (406-543-4238 or rivercityrootsfestival.com).



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Helena Symphony performs outdoor concert

Carroll College and the Helena Symphony are again joining forces for the 13th annual Symphony Under the Stars, 8:30 p.m. July 16 on the campus of Carroll College in Helena.

This year's concert, "Broadway!," features the Helena Symphony Orchestra and Broadway stars Doug LaBrecque and Christiane Noll performing highlights from "The Phantom of the Opera," "Wicked," "West Side Story," "Chicago," "Hairspray," "Mamma Mia," and many others. The concert culminates with one of Montana's best fireworks shows.

Last season more than 16,000 people attended; pack your blankets and picnics for the free performance.

A limited number of reserved chairs are available in front of the stage for \$30 each, plus a small transaction fee, and may be purchased online while they last at helenasympphony.org or by phone at 406-442-1860.



Festival Amadeus: Mary Elizabeth Bowden



16

Grants help expand cultural participation and enhance sustainability

In a new report, *Investing in Cultural Participation and Financial Sustainability*, the James Irvine Foundation details the experiences of 36 arts organizations in California that were awarded grants in 2009 to promote cultural participation and align organizational finances for long-term sustainability.

It found that each grantee was able to increase participation, develop new capacities and stabilize its finances during the Great Recession. Find the full report at www.irvine.org.

— from NASAA Notes

Loan financing for nonprofits: Part 2

Sources for loan financing for arts or cultural organizations

By Bill Pratt and the Montana Mission Investing Group

Part one of this article showed how a number of Montana arts organization have used loan financing to further their missions and discussed how loan financing can help your organization, how to ensure your organization is ready for financing, and how to prepare it to seek this type of revenue.

Part Two will explore the various sources of local financing, offer some basic information about program- and mission-related investing, and provide additional resources to investigate.

Finding loan financing

Build on relationships that you have or can develop to come up with a list of financing possibilities. Here are a number of strategies and sources of loan financing:

1. Look to your own organization for resources.

- Do you have existing cash reserves you can borrow from, and are they sufficient to enable you to also meet unforeseen emergencies? It can be helpful to already have policies to require rebuilding of these reserves, and specifying the interest rate you will pay to offset what you would have earned during the period of the loan.

- You may want to have quiet conversations with your board members and major donors, who would be open to an investment opportunity that has both a financial and social/cultural return, investing in Main Street as well as Wall Street. In fact, if your interest rates are competitive, they might loan you more than they contribute annually. This provides another opportunity to engage donors beyond your usual request for a contribution.

- If you wish to publicly solicit loan funds for your organization from individuals and organizations, such as churches or other nonprofits that may be responsive to community investment opportunities, you will need to file for a nonprofit exemption from the Office of the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. See: 30-10-104(1) and/or (8) Montana Codes Annotated.

The circular that you will create will provide potential lenders with information about your financing needs, the minimum loan amount, payment schedule and interest rates. It is highly recommended that you involve an attorney in this process to help ensure that your circular includes everything an investor would need to know about making this investment.

2. Commercial banks, especially those with whom you already do business, may be willing to provide a line of credit, especially if it can help them meet their Community Reinvestment Act responsibilities. They may not want to provide all the financing, but banks can be an important part of the loan package, especially if there are other lenders to help share the risk.

Be sure to ask for consideration regarding the interest payment, fees and loan period because of your nonprofit status and service to the community, especially if you are serving a low-income, underserved, tribal or rural population.

3. Local credit unions, which exist in many communities, may be another option to explore. They usually provide banking services and loans for cars and homes but may be willing to entertain your proposal. Typically with a credit union there is a membership requirement that can be met by opening an account.

4. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are private financial institutions that are 100% dedicated to delivering responsible, affordable lending to help low-income, low-wealth, and other

disadvantaged people and communities join the economic mainstream. By financing community businesses – including small businesses, microenterprises, nonprofit organizations, commercial real estate, and affordable housing – CDFIs spark job growth and retention in hard-to-serve markets across the nation.

CDFIs are profitable but not profit-maximizing. They put community first, not the shareholder. For more than 30 years, they have had a proven track record of making an impact in those areas of America that need it most.

CDFIs also provide technical assistance to help you with financing issues and creating your loan package. They may also have access to New Market Tax Credits. For example, in the last three years the Montana Community Development Corporation (Montana CDC), a CDFI headquartered in Missoula but serving Montana and Idaho, made \$35 million in loans to nonprofits across both states.

Lending Resources

Nonprofit Finance

- **Brief Guide to Loan Finance for Trustees:** trusteenet.org.uk/files/NCVO-Guide_to_Loan_Finance.pdf
- **Financial Scan, Nonprofit Finance Fund:** nonprofitfinancefund.org/financial-scan
- **Funding Sources for Charities and Nonprofit Organizations:** knowhownonprofit.org/leadership/governance/getting-started-in-governance/raisingmoney
- **Nonprofit Financial Ratios, Nonprofits Assistance Fund:** nonprofitsassistancefund.org/resources/item/analyzing-financial-information-using-ratios
- **Principles and Practices: Financial Management, Montana Nonprofit Association:** www.mtnonprofit.org/PPNE_Financial/
- **When to Draw the Line: A Guide to Use and Abuse of Credit:** nynp.biz/index.php/strengthening-nonprofits/10109-when-to-draw-the-line-a-guide-to-use-and-abuse-of-credit

Mission Investing

- **A Call for Mission-Based Investing by America's Private Foundations by Rick Cohen:** community-wealth.org/sites/clone.community-wealth.org/files/downloads/paper-cohen.pdf
- **Community Foundation Portal: Your Road to Mission Investing:** www.missioninvestors.org/tools/community-foundation-portal-your-road-to-mission-investing
- **Community Foundation Field Guide to Impact Investing:** www.missioninvestors.org/system/files/tools/FieldGuide_102113_PRINT_v3.pdf
- **Essentials of Impact Investing: A Guide for Small, Staffed Foundations:** www.missioninvestors.org/essentials-doc
- **A Short Guide for Impact Investing, The Case Foundation:** casefoundation.org/resource/short-guide-impact-investing/

5. State agencies with loan programs for community projects and facilities are another source if you can meet their funding priorities and eligibility criteria.

6. Private foundations are increasingly becoming involved in making loans as well as grants, usually, but not exclusively, to their grantees. This is often called Mission or Impact Investing. They can do this in two ways:

- a. Program-Related Investments (PRIs) are below-market-rate investments that are made primarily to advance a foundation's charitable purposes and to meet foundation program objectives. Defined by the IRS tax code, they are eligible to count against a foundation's required 5% annual payout and often take the form of no- or low-interest loans to grantees, allowing a foundation to recycle repaid loans into new loans or other qualified investments.

- b. Mission-Related Investments (MRI) are market-rate investments that support a foundation's mission through generating positive social impacts aligned with the foundation's mission. Often referred to as: impact investing, socially responsible investing, double/triple bottom line investing, or green investing, these in-

vestments must meet applicable prudent investor standards just like conventional investments. These mission investments exist across asset classes in cash, fixed income, public equity, private equity and venture capital, and real estate.

Private foundations may respond to a request for a loan from one of its grantees or an organization that dovetails with its local focus, by making a PRI or an MRI. If they have never considered a loan before, you can raise the issue with them.

Impact investing is an emerging field nationally and very nascent in Montana. We are all learning together about the topic and the experiences of individual nonprofits, communities and funders. Mission investing requires that organizations expand their relationships with existing donors and grantmaking organizations to encompass solicitation of loan funds of a variety of types.

7. Community foundations in Montana

are also becoming more aware of Mission Investing and making loans in the communities that they serve. There are numerous advantages for local community foundations to become involved in Mission Investing including making their investments more aligned with their mission and providing additional capital for community development.

8. Financial advisors in your community, with whom you have or can develop a relationship, may be willing to alert sympathetic high-net-worth individuals to your organization's needs.

Taking the next steps

- Use the resources below, as well as key resource people in your community, to educate yourself and your finance committee about loan financing options to obtain capital.

- Discuss your readiness for financing, and how it might be used by your organization to improve your current situation or allow your organization to explore new horizons, as well as how it will impact other financial aspects of your organizations. Naturally, if you want to move forward you will need to discuss it with your full board.

- Get legal advice to help you make any governance changes needed and start to build your capacity and revenue streams if necessary, and especially if you plan to solicit private investments from individuals.

- Begin conversations with the "usual suspects" in your community and your current funders about any experience, knowledge or plans they have about loan financing.

Bill Pratt is a co-founder of the Montana Mission Investing Group (MMIG), a network that shares information about mission investing within the Montana foundation community as well as nonprofits with endowments and those looking for financing, the financial services industry and individual investors.

The MMIG also explores ways to create Montana-suitable approaches to make mission investing straightforward and easy. MMIG hosts monthly conference calls, and has co-sponsored a webinar and panel presentation with the Montana Nonprofit Association, hosted two learning sessions in Missoula and Bozeman, and recently launched a Google Group to facilitate information sharing. To learn more, contact Bill at bpratt9@msn.com.

Thanks to: Rosalie Sheehy Cates, senior advisor, The Giving Practice; Dave Glaser, chief executive officer, Montana CDC; Amy Hyfield, executive director, O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation; Mark Kelley, trustee, Kelley Family Foundation; Liz Moore, executive director, Montana Nonprofit Association; Sheila Rice, executive director, Neighborworks Great Falls; and Maureen Rude, executive director, Neighborworks Montana for their help in preparation of this article.

To learn more about mission investing, visit the Mission Investors Exchange (MIE) at www.missioninvestors.org and sign up for its e-newsletter. MIE is a national membership organization where philanthropic innovators share ideas, tools and experiences to increase the impact of their capital.

LAW AND THE ART WORLD

Irritants that will not go away

By Bill Frazier ©2015

From time to time, I try to re-visit issues and problems that seem to affect the most artists, galleries and collectors. Sometimes months go by without hearing of these things and then I will get several calls in a week about the same problems.

Recently, I have heard from quite a few artists (and some writers) who, for whatever reasons, have either sold or transferred their copyrights to their buyers. They do not seem to know why, and I certainly do not know why they have done so, especially in view of the volumes of materials advising against such transfers. There are almost no good reasons for relinquishing one's copyright.

As a reminder, the artist automatically owns the copyright in his own work. It can no longer be lost accidentally, and it does not pass with the sale of the artwork. Not only does the artist automatically own the copyright, but he automatically retains the copyright when the work is sold or transferred.

The copyright is the artist's and always will be the artist's, up to the maximum length of copyright duration, which is the life of the artist plus 70 years. You may sell or transfer it, but you do not have to, and it cannot pass without your written documentation.

Remember, there is the physical artwork itself and the copyright on it. They are two separate things. You sell the artwork and keep the copyright.

This is another reason why it is important to read your contracts. I have seen several contracts recently whereby the buyer, publisher, or gallery includes a provision for transfer of the artist's or writer's copyright. There is no reason to transfer your copyright to a gallery or a publisher, or to authorize the gallery to use your images for any and all purposes, beyond the promotion and advertising of your work.

Such a transfer is not necessary for your representation and the artist should not sign such a contract, period, absolute! If you have any question about this, I will be happy to talk you out of it.

Tax-deductible donations

It is important for donors to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations to understand this issue, which comes up occasionally and can create both tax problems for the donor and public relations headaches for the organization. This is the situation in which the donor donates otherwise tax-deductible funds to the organization, but wants to control how the funds are spent. It is important to note that in most cases, donor-directed or controlled funds are not tax deductible.

Similarly, despite what some "advisors" are telling their artist clients, the donation by the artist of his or her own artwork to a tax-exempt organization, a 501(c) (3) museum, for example, is not deductible. Nor is it deductible when the work is donated for resale at an auction sponsored by the tax-exempt organization.

Some artists have been told that they get a charitable tax deduction for the amount that the donated work sells for at the auction. This is not correct.

Tax laws governing the donation to, and sale of, artwork by non-profit and/or tax-exempt organizations, whether by artists or collectors, are complicated. Remember, charitable organizations, including art museums, are not in the business of selling art, and that status affects the deductible amount for work donated to them, especially if it is for resale. These situations come up every year at tax season, so be careful what deductions you attempt to claim.

About those "death taxes"

As the presidential election cranks up, we are hearing politicians talk about "death taxes" once again. This refers to both state and federal estate taxes. I have heard of artists destroying inventories of their work because they were afraid of leaving their heirs with estate tax problems due to concerns over the estimated high values of the artwork. This is rarely a problem.



Bill Frazier

I know that politicians love to talk about abolishing these estate taxes, but the reality is that very few people have to pay them. Many states have no estate tax at all, no matter how high the value of the estate, and the current federal estate-tax exemption is about \$5.5 million per person, or \$11 million for a couple. For most people, this simply is not a worry.

For the few lucky ones who do have this problem, there are many solutions available through estate-planning techniques available from tax lawyers and CPAs. If this applies to your situation, check things out before resorting to such extreme steps as destroying your artwork. Don't listen to rumors and be alarmed by political rhetoric.

While we are on the subject of taxes and the IRS, please note that the IRS distinguishes between art collectors and art investors and there are different requirements for each, and some benefits. If you define yourself as either, by all means seek advice from a tax lawyer or CPA.

Bill Frazier served a lengthy and invaluable tenure as chairman of the Montana Arts Council. He can be reached at artlaw@itstriangle.com. MAC thanks *Art of the West* for permission to reprint this series.



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Our best ideas

Where do our best ideas come from?

As it turns out, science says there are a number of ways to help prime the brain for divergent thinking. If you've hit a creative roadblock, here are a few ways to get the ideas flowing. Check it out: ittybittyurl.com/1oqR

Tech Talk: A few other website builder offerings

By Mark Ratledge

A few years back, I wrote a series of Tech Talks about a free website service called WordPress and how to get started with it to build a website. WordPress still has the dominant market share when it comes to free (or nearly free) website services, but there are other website-builder offerings around these days. They're not completely free, but they are easy to use and have user interfaces that can be simpler to use than WordPress.

What brought these other services to my mind – SquareSpace, Wix, Weebly, GoDaddy and others – is the fact that they have been hawked on TV and radio for a few years now. Once upon a time, website stuff was only for geek types; but maybe that speaks to my generation, as generally anyone college age has never known a time without the internet, and these kinds of technology are second nature.

Closer to home, Jeff Bridges, the actor and Livingston resident, talked about SquareSpace on a late-night talk show as what was used for a website for his business that raises money for one of his charities.

These other services can be worth it, if you understand their limitations – which, depending on what you want to do, might not be limitations at all. They can be a bit

easier to use than WordPress if you want a quick and easy site for yourself or for an organizational event.

I came across a website that gives a good rundown and comparison chart of the most popular services, such as SquareSpace, Wix, Weebly, GoDaddy and more. It's called Website Builders Comparison Chart and it's at goo.gl/5IKcWs. It was last updated in May, so it's current. The usage stats, as the website notes, can be self-reported in some cases, so take the numbers in the "Websites Powered" column with a grain of salt.

These services all cost a little to use, although SquareSpace has a free trial. But they can offer ecommerce capabilities and newsletter and membership creators, which require extra plugins for WordPress.

The highest rated – according to reviews around the web – appears to be Squarespace. I've played around with it, and it's interesting. Wix gets slightly higher ratings at websitebuilderexpert.com, although I wouldn't give it that.

Wix is popular, however, and has recently

started moving away from a technology called Flash that has been dropping in general usage because it's plagued with security problems. (Some new versions of web

browsers, in fact, disable Flash by default.) And almost all of these services – referring to my last Tech Talk – produce websites that are mobile compatible right out of the box.

You can also easily Google "Squarespace reviews" and see what others say. The best thing to do is jump in and try one or two.

WordPress is still the most fully featured and most popular, running about 25% of websites online and owning over 50% of total market share, but there are other services to try.



Mark Ratledge is a WordPress consultant. Check his website at markratledge.com.



SQUARESPACE

Squarespace is one of the new website-building services on the market now.



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Statewide arts service organizations

Montana has many arts-discipline-specific statewide service organizations. You can find a complete list here: art.mt.gov/arts_service_orgs

Montana Arts Council grants, awards & commissions

Visit the Montana Arts Council's website for a complete listing of grants, awards and commissions:

Individuals: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#individuals

Organizations: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#orgs

Schools: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#schools

Programs and Services: art.mt.gov/programs_services_home

PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS

The Three Rs at work in Montana

Public Value Partnership grants between Montana nonprofit arts organizations and the Montana Arts Council champion the fact that the arts are of benefit to all the citizens of Montana and are worthy of state and federal investment.

Public Value Partnerships utilize three tools we call "The Three Rs" to expand the public value of the work being done by Montana's non-profit arts organizations:

- Building relationships;
- Creating greater relevance and meaning; and
- Establishing return on investment (measured both as economic vitality and impact on people's lives).

Here are some of the best examples of these stories from 2015:

Building Relationships

Archie Bray Foundation, Helena: The Archie Bray has recently created the position of education coordinator to focus on improving the education program and increasing interest in classes and workshops.

Lindsey Carroll, who was hired in May of 2015, works closely with students to bring about changes and improvements that make the experience of a class at the Bray as positive as possible. Lindsey is starting conversations with students and listening to their feedback and requests. Through this process, the students feel more invested in the program and know that the Bray appreciates their ideas. With their input, she also works to align student needs and interests with those of the instructors.

A few years ago, the Bray switched to a lower temperature for firing glazed work. This change was made to reduce time demands on the instructors and energy usage.

While the lower temperature can produce the same look as the higher, the process takes skill and attention to the firing process. After one of the recent glaze firings, Lindsey heard from several of the students that the results were disappointing, and they were dissatisfied with their work.

From this, Lindsey researched a firing process that would possibly produce better results, and worked with the tech who fires the kilns to implement the change. Because of her efforts and because she acted on the feedback the next firing was more successful. The students felt important and included in the process as well as

happier with the results of the firing.

For future sessions, Lindsey will create an open forum where the students can feel comfortable expressing their ideas and concerns.

With this feedback, she hopes she can create a stronger program that will better fulfill the needs of the students.

Creating Relevance

Big Sky Film Institute, Missoula: Every year we conduct audience surveys that help us greatly to keep our programming relevant, and to ensure that we are providing the best audience experience possible. For years, this has been our most effective technique to create relevance between our organization and our participants.

In addition to gaining feedback on what the audience thinks of our films and overall festival experience, we learn valuable information about our audience demographics from the surveys. For example, we learned that in 2015 82% of our audience members had a college

education, and 28.5% had a graduate degree. Knowing that our audience is highly educated pushes us to find challenging and thought-provoking films.

We also use surveys in our Film-maker in the Schools program, in which we bring filmmakers into Missoula County public schools to screen their films and do a Q&A during school hours.

Our surveys are designed to help us collect information on the demographics we have reached, and to help us understand how teachers view the impact of our programs on their students. Hearing directly yet anonymously from educators allows us to receive honest feedback and make the changes necessary the following year to meet the needs of our school system.



Archie Bray Foundation: Board member and grandchild visit an exhibit.



Alpine Theatre Project: Last summer's production of "Big River." (Photo by Brenda Ahearn)



Big Sky Film Institute: Film screening at the historic Wilma Theater.

Some examples of questions from our 2015 survey are: "Do you feel that the films you saw gave you and your students a better understanding of diversity?" and "Were the screenings a good fit for the current curriculum?"

The qualitative answers to questions such as these, together with the quantitative statistics of how many students and teachers attend our programs, help us to measure the impact of our youth programs.

Return on Investment

Alpine Theatre Project (ATP), Whitefish: This year, as part of Alpine Theatre Project's new business plan, the decision was made to change its summer schedule to a rotating repertory format wherein the same company of artists would perform three different productions ("Guys and Dolls," "Big River," and "The Who's Tommy") that would rotate on a nightly basis.

ATP decided to change to this format after it had done market research and realized that: (1) only 30% of its audience were non-residents and (2) most visitors to the Flathead Valley stay between four to seven nights on average. By running in a rotating repertory model, or "running in rep," ATP would be able to offer multiple production options to residents and non-residents within any given week.

The result was tremendous. The per-night attendance average increased by 30% over the previous format, with several performances selling out completely.

Thanks to ATP's new information infrastructure, patrons were also able to provide immediate feedback on how they enjoyed having the option to see different productions within the week. They also mentioned how they enjoyed seeing the same company of actors perform such a variety of different roles. These same patrons used local restaurants and businesses more frequently because of their increased attendance.

In return, the artists employed by ATP for this new format became more embedded in the community. Local business owners got to know the artists more since they were out and about in the community all summer patronizing their businesses. These artists have become ambassadors for Whitefish and the Flathead Valley, returning to their points of origin and extolling the virtues of our community.

New federal labor rule (from page 1)

Summary of the final rule:

- **Salary threshold.** The final rule will raise the salary level for the first time since 2004. This increase will go into effect on Dec. 1, 2016.
- **Standard salary level.** The final rule will raise the standard salary threshold to equal the 40th percentile of weekly earnings for full-time salaried workers in the lowest-wage census region, currently the South. This will raise it from \$455 a week to \$913 a week (\$47,476 for a full-year worker). This means that 35 percent of full-time salaried workers will be automatically entitled to overtime, based solely on their salary.
- **Highly Compensated Employees (HCE) salary level.** The rule also updates the total annual compensation level above which most white-collar workers will be ineligible for overtime. The final rule raises this level from the current \$100,000 to \$134,004 a year.
- **Automatic updates.** Every year that the threshold remains unchanged, it covers fewer and fewer workers

as wages overall increase over time. The final rule will fix this by automatically updating the salary threshold every three years, beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

Each update will raise the standard threshold to the 40th percentile of full-time salaried workers in the lowest-wage census region, estimated to be \$51,168 in 2020. The HCE threshold will increase to the 90th percentile of full-time salaried workers nationally, estimated to be \$147,524 in 2020. The department will post new salary levels 150 days in advance of their effective date, beginning Aug. 1, 2019.

- **Bonuses, incentive payments, and commissions.** The final rule will allow up to 10 percent of the salary threshold for non-HCE employees to be met by non-discretionary bonuses, incentive pay, or commissions, provided these payments are made on at least a quarterly basis. This recognizes the importance these forms of pay have in many companies' compensation arrangements, particularly for managerial employees

affected by the final rule. This is a new policy that responds to comments from the business community.

- **Duties test.** The final rule does not make any changes to the "duties test" that determines whether white-collar salaried workers earning more than the salary threshold are ineligible for overtime pay. But fewer employers and workers will have to worry about its application because the higher salary threshold means more workers' entitlement to overtime pay will be clear just from their salaries.

For workers with salaries above the updated salary level, employers will continue to use the same duties test to determine whether the worker is entitled to overtime.

The National Council of Nonprofits, the Montana Nonprofit Association's national partner organization, has launched a new page on its website that includes the latest information on the rule. Learn more at www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/overtime-regulations-and-the-impact-nonprofits.

The Department of Labor has also published special guidance for nonprofit organizations: www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/final2016/nonprofit-guidance.pdf.

NEA visits Montana (from page 1)

MAC Executive Director Arni Fishbaugh and Chairman Chu also hosted an “Arts Conversation” in both Helena and Missoula, which encouraged the public to engage in a dialogue about arts issues not only in Montana, but also nationwide.

To get a flavor for Montana’s uniqueness, the team first arrived in Helena to experience the Myra Loy Center and the Archie Bray Foundation. They also engaged in a discussion about the arts and the military at the Holter Museum of Art.

Governor Steve Bullock met with Chairman Chu, Laura Scanlan and Winona Varnon at the Capitol, along with MAC Chairman Cyndy Andrus, Executive Director Arni Fishbaugh, Dept. of Commerce Director Meg O’Leary and MAC Business Development Specialist Cinda Holt.

Heading west to Missoula, the NEA team



Visit to the Archie Bray: Steven Lee, Jane Chu, Cyndy Andrus, Winona Varnon and Katryna Carter (Photo by Laura Scanlan)

was treated to a tour of the Missoula Children’s Theatre and the Missoula Art Museum and then, with Ken Egan, Executive Director of Humanities Montana, they all went north to Pablo. The group was welcomed to the Salish Kootenai College Art Department by MAC member Corky Clairmont, Art Department Chairman Frank Finley and artists Jay Laber and Linda King. MAC Arts Education



Chairman Chu and MAC member Corky Clairmont (Photo by Kristi Niemeyer)

Director Emily Kohring, Arlee teacher Ronda Howlett, and Caroline Patterson, Sheryl Noethe and Patsy O’Keefe from the Missoula Writing Collaborative were also in attendance.

After three action-packed days on the road, “Montana style,” the NEA team left happily exhausted, and with a profound sense of, and respect for, the vastness and beauty of the land, and with full recognition of the GIGANTIC CREATIVITY present in our artists, arts communities and citizens.

What a treat it was to have the full force of the National Endowment for the Arts here to see firsthand what we at the arts council brag about *every single day*.



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Focus group participants (left to right): Michael McGill, Steven Lee, Katryna Carter, Tom Borrup, Sheri Jarvis, Gita Saedi Kiley, Jane Chu, Vaughan Judge, Janaina Vieira-Marques, Tracy Linder, Tim Holmes, Marcy Hinand, Frank Finley, Jack Nickels, Laura Scanlan, Arni Fishbaugh and Winona Varnon. (Not pictured, George Everett, Olivia Everett and Laura Millin).



Lunch with the Chairman (left to right): Czelsi Kozak, Arni Fishbaugh, Kim Baraby Hurtle, Paul Stahl, Laura Scanlan, Drew Geiger, Cyndy Andrus, Arlene Parisot, Jane Chu, Tom Cordingly, Judy Ulrich, Jay Pyette, Karen Bohlinger and Carlene Layne. (Photo by Cinda Holt)

NEA awards \$1,006,700 in Montana

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded \$1,006,700 in Montana as part of more than \$82 million in grants funded in this second major grant announcement of its 50th anniversary year. Grants were awarded in 13 artistic disciplines or fields plus arts research, along with partnership agreements to U.S. states, jurisdictions, and regions.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu noted, “Approximately 85 percent of NEA grantees are small- to medium-sized organizations serving millions of people each year. The arts are all around us and the NEA helps them thrive ... Supporting projects like the ones in Montana offer more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

Four funding categories are represented in this announcement: Art Works, Research: Art Works, Our Town, and State and Regional Partnerships. The NEA also awarded \$35,900 in Big Read grants.

Montana recipients and amounts are:

- **Montana Arts Council**, \$790,800 to support Partnership Agreement activities in the state.
- **Friends of Big Sky Education**, \$10,000 to support the Big Sky Conservatory at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The conservatory will bring professional artists to Big Sky to lead a series of intensive training workshops for professional artists and high school students.
- **Intermountain Opera Association of Bozeman**, \$10,000 to support performances of Donizetti’s “The Daughter of the Regiment,” with related outreach activities. Performances will occur in fall 2016.
- **Montana State University**, \$25,000 to support Montana Shakespeare in the Parks’ summer tour of “Richard III,” directed by Executive Artistic Director Kevin Asselin, and “The Comedy of Errors,” directed by guest director Chris Duval.
- **Art Mobile of Montana (aka Art Mobile)**, \$15,000 to support a traveling

exhibition and visual arts education program. A specially equipped van travels throughout the state, providing access to original artworks by Montana artists, art-making activities and presentations from the artists.

- **Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust**, \$10,000 to support the creation of art works that will be part of interpretive exhibits in an Imagine Your Parks project in western Montana. Local and Native American artists will tell regional stories of settlement, agriculture, and natural history at National Park Service sites. Artists from the Nez Perce and Salish tribes will work on several of the exhibits.

- **Helena Presents (aka Myrna Loy Center)**, \$20,000 to support a commission and a series of multidisciplinary residencies. As part of Imagine Your Parks, the Myrna Loy will commission composer Philip Aaberg to create and present a new jazz/multimedia work based on soundscapes of Glacier National Park. Additionally, music and dance artists will perform and lead participatory workshops for varied communities including elders in retirement and nursing homes, at-risk youth in a teen shelter, and public school students and teachers.

- **Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI)**, \$30,000 to support Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts, an arts integration professional-development project in partnership with the Montana Arts Council. Teacher leaders, master art educators, and state and national leaders on arts learning come together through a summer institute, online learning communities, webinars, and a spring gathering.

Participants learn strategies for teaching the arts across content areas, design curriculum implementing state and national arts standards, share curriculum and lesson plans they have developed, and discuss the progress of their field projects and more. Participants will study the how the arts influence cognition and build habits of mind that support academic success, develop knowledge and skills in

arts integration, and other information that will help them become leaders for arts education in their schools, districts, and communities.

- **International Choral Festival**, \$10,000 to support the festival, which has brought choirs from around the world to Missoula every three to four years since its inception in 1987. Under the direction of Artistic Director David Heidel, activities include daily concerts, master classes, conductors’ workshops, and a massed choir concert.

- **Missoula Children’s Theatre**, \$30,000 to support a national performing arts residency tour to underserved communities and U.S. military bases. Touring actors and directors cast local youth in original musicals based on a classic fairytale. The children rehearse and perform at the culmination of one-week residencies, which also include three age-specific workshops. Participants gain theater knowledge, self-confidence, and life skills.

- **Missoula Writing Collaborative**, \$20,000 to support Our Words, creative writing residencies for students on the Flathead Reservation. Led by professional writers, playwrights, and classroom teachers, each residency incorporates either ekphrastic writing (poetry inspired by a work of art), with students writing in response to the work of local Salish artists, or scriptwriting, with students creating short theater productions based on Native American stories in collaboration with Native playwrights.

Students will present their work in English and in Salish and have the opportunity to share their work between schools via Skype exchanges. The collaborative will disseminate the students’ work through a published anthology, public readings, and reservation-based public television broadcast.

The NEA also just announced its 2016 Big Read grants, which awarded \$35,900 in Montana funding to **Lewis and Clark Library** in Helena, **Missoula Public Library** and **The Writer’s Voice** in Billings.

Future Cultural & Aesthetic Trust Grants

The FY18-19 Cultural and Aesthetic Trust grants are available online with a deadline of Aug. 1, 2016.

Strategic Investment Grants

Funding is currently available for grants of up to \$1,000 for nonprofit arts organizations, artists and arts educators. Deadlines are monthly.

For more information see art.mt.gov/orgs/orgs_sig.asp or contact Kristin Han Burgoyne at kborgoyne@mt.gov or 406-444-6449.

- 1 NEA Visits Montana; New Federal Labor Rule; Sean Chandler; Jenifer Alger; Cultural Trust Deadline
- 2 Arni's Addendum; Sean Chandler (cont.)
- 3-4 Congrats; Transitions; Condolences
- 5 Myrna Loy Center Turns 25; "Woody" Wood Steps Down From Alberta Bair
- 6 NEA Grant for Teacher Leaders in the Arts; The MCT-China Connection
- 7 Valerie Veis, "The Story Unfolds"; Powwow Season; Missoula Writing Collaborative Residency on the Flathead Reservation
- 8 MAP and MCAM News; Out West Art Show Winners
- 9-11 About Music; About Books
- 12 Visual Artists Rights Act; DeWeese Website
- 13 About Visual Artists
- 14-15 *Lively Times'* Summer Festival Guide
- 16 Loan Financing for Nonprofits, Part 2
- 17 Law and the Art World; Tech Talk
- 18 Public Value Partnerships; Federal Labor Rule (cont.)
- 19 NEA Visits Montana (cont.); NEA Grants



STATE OF THE

Arts



MAC Chairman Cyndy Andrus and National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu at the Montana Capitol during the chairman's visit to Montana in March.
(Photo by Laura Scanlan)

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NEA’s March Visit to Montana

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Museums have lasting impact on teens

Every year, thousands of teenagers participate in programs at their local art museums. But do any of them remember their time at museum events later in life?

A new report suggests that the answer is yes, and finds that alumni of arts-based museum programs credit them with changing the course of their lives, even years after the fact.

Check out the article at www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/museum-programs-affect-teens-for-a-lifetime.

For the full report go to whitney.org.

ARTS EDUCATION

NEA grant boosts Teacher Leaders in the Arts

By Emilie Ritter Saunders
Office of Public Instruction

Superintendent Denise Juneau announced May 11 that the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has received a \$30,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant to continue developing Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts.

Thanks to a partnership with the Montana Arts Council (MAC), the Office of Public Instruction is again hosting a summer learning institute for K-12 teachers who will become coaches and mentors in integrating arts across subject areas.

“It’s important that students in both large and small Montana schools have the opportunity to learn music, dance, and visual arts,” Juneau said. “This National Endowment for the Arts grant will allow more Montana educators to learn the skills needed for becoming teacher leaders and mentor other educators on how to integrate arts into their classrooms.”

For the second year, OPI and MAC will host the Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts summer institute June 20-29 at Salish Kootenai College. Last year, 16 educators from Montana’s largest AA schools down to a one-room schoolhouse participated in the institute.

“The Montana Arts Council is enormously pleased about this National Endowment for the Arts grant, in addition to our valuable relationship with the Office of Public Instruction,” said MAC Executive Director Arlynn Fishbaugh.

“The Teacher Leaders in the Arts initiative has been a roaring success to date! It offers a unique opportunity for teachers throughout Montana to improve the effectiveness of their teaching and students’ ability to learn through the arts,” said Fishbaugh. “There is growing evidence about the value and effectiveness of

this type of teaching. We know that Montana teachers are innovative in the way they will put this training to work to benefit all their students.”

The OPI is in the process of updating its K-12 arts content standards, which haven’t been changed since 2000. Once approved by the Board of Public Education, Montana’s arts teacher leaders will be key in raising awareness of the state’s updated arts standards.

First Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts cohort completes program

Congratulations to the inaugural cohort of Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts, who completed the program during the 2015-2016 school year:

Vivian Schultz, Wolf Point
Teresa Heil, Frazer
Susan Wolfe, Lame Deer
Natalie Parker, Lame Deer
Jonathan Brooks, Poplar
Susan Luinstra, Bynum
Theresa Jacobs, Great Falls
Marie Stevenson, Livingston
Jodi Delaney, Helena
Anne Thoreson, Bozeman
Ruth Schwarz McDonald, Philipsburg
Jennifer Ogden, Victor
Dustin Hoon, Missoula
Carolyn Pardini, Pablo
Wes Hines, Kalispell
Kathy Manley-Coburn, Cayuse Prairie
The 2016-2017 cohort will begin their program in June at the Summer Arts Learning Institute at Salish Kootenai College.



Poetry Out Loud champ

Congratulations to 2016 Poetry Out Loud Champion Savannah Smith of Helena High School! Savannah won the Montana Poetry Out Loud State Finals held March 12 in Helena. On May 4, she advanced to the final round of the National Competition in Washington, DC, after landing in the top three in the Western Region Semifinals. Of 53 total competitors, only nine advanced to the final round. Savannah was a wonderful ambassador for Montana, and we wish her well as she heads to college in the fall.

(Photo by James Kegley)

The MCT-China connection

Collaboration continues with China National Theatre for Children

Nine Missoula-area high school students are preparing for a two-week trip to China this summer as part of the Missoula Children’s Theatre’s on-going collaboration with the China National Theatre for Children (CNTC) in Beijing.

The relationship began in 2014 during a meeting with representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC, and has resulted in several unique and exciting projects:

- January 2015: Two CNTC actors trained alongside new MCT tour actor/directors and then traveled to Renton, WA, to see an MCT touring group in action with “The Princess and the Pea.”

- August 2015: MCT sent a tour team to China to produce “The Princess and the Pea” with 60 local Beijing students, in English, as part of the fourth China Children’s International Theatre Festival. Among the enthusiastic audience members were U.S. Ambassador Max Baucus, his wife, Melodee Hanes, and numerous representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Culture. The project was listed as an achievement of the sixth round of the China-U.S. High Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange 2015, an annual meeting, which was chaired by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington, DC.

- December 2015: A CNTC representative, Ms. Simeng Kong, was selected for a prestigious three-month internship in arts administration with MCT, which was funded entirely by the Chinese Ministry of Culture.

This summer, Missoula students Benjamin Blackwell, Nathan Dudden, Kade Hedahl, Oliver Chinn, Angel Frisbie, Chance Leup-



Missoula-area students bone up on Mandarin and memorize their lines in preparation for an MCT-organized trip to China this summer.

(Photo by Mark Cartee)

hold, Quois Farnum Clark, Noah George, and Henry Wright head to China, and were busy boning up on Mandarin in June to prepare for the trip.

The first week will be spent in Beijing, where they will perform three Chinese plays – in Mandarin – during the opening weekend of the fifth China Children’s International Theatre Festival. This challenging and exciting project is a three-way cooperation between MCT, CNTC and the University of Montana Confucius Institute.

Students studied Mandarin with Chinese teachers in Missoula, through the Confucius Institute, and worked hard on memorizing their lines under the guidance of Suhan Chen. In mid-June, Yang Cheng (who was in Missoula in January 2015) arrives in Missoula to stage the scenes, work on character and serve as the show’s director.

In early July, MCT artistic director Joseph Martinez and education director Matt Loehrke accompany the students to Beijing for final rehearsals before the performances at the festival. Once those conclude, the group will

continue to travel in other parts of China with the Confucius Institute staff.

The costs associated with the trip are approximately \$2000 per student, which includes airfare, visas, insurance and other costs. The Missoula Rotary Noon Club made a generous donation of \$1,300 to help defray expenses and the students are fundraising to help with the rest. To learn more about donating to the project, visit www.gofundme.com/MissoulaBeijing.

For information, contact MCT Executive Director Michael McGill at 406-728-1911 or mmcgill@MCTinc.org.



Yang Cheng arrives in Missoula mid-June to stage scenes, work on character and direct three Chinese plays that area high school students will present in China this summer. He’s an actor for the China National Theatre for Children and won the Golden Lion Drama Performance Award in 2014.

NATIVE NEWS



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Dancers participate in the annual Arlee Celebration. (Photo courtesy of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)

Powwow Season

It's powwow season again. Here's a schedule of summer gatherings across Montana:

- **Arlee 4th of July Celebration**, June 29-July 4 in Arlee (406-275-2727 or arleepowwow.com).
- **Northern Cheyenne 4th of July Powwow**, July 1-3 in Lame Deer (406-477-6284 or www.cheyennation.com)
- **Valley of The Chiefs Powwow and Rodeo**, July 1-4 in Lodge Grass (406-638-3525)
- **North American Indian Days**, July 7-10 in Browning (406-338-3513 or www.blackfeetnation.com)
- **Standing Arrow Powwow**, July 15-17 in Elmo (406-207-7095)
- **Milk River Indian Days**, July 22-24 in Fort Belknap (406-353-2601)
- **Rocky Boy Celebration**, Aug. 5-7 in Box Elder (406-395-5705)
- **Heart Butte Celebration**, Aug. 11-14 in Heart Butte (406-338-2086)
- **Hays Powwow**, Aug. 12-14 in Hays (406-673-3282)
- **Crow Fair and Rodeo**, Aug. 16-22 in Crow Agency (406-638-3808)
- **Little Shell Chippewa Powwow**, Aug. 14, First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, Uln (406-590-1745)
- **People's Center Social Powwow**, Aug. 20, People's Center in Pablo (406-675-0160 or www.peoplescenter.org)
- **Metis Celebration**, Sept. 2-4, fairgrounds in Lewistown (406-248-2948)
- **Ashland Labor Day Powwow**, Sept. 2-5 in Ashland (406-784-2883)
- **Day of Honor**, Sept. 3, Chief Plenty Coups State Park in Pryor (406-252-1289 or stateparks.mt.gov/chief-pretty-coups)
- **Poplar Indian Days**, Sept. 3-5, Fort Poplar American Legion in Poplar (406-768-7623)
- **North American Indian Alliance Powwow**, Sept. 9-10, Butte Civic Center (406-782-0461)
- **Native American Heritage Day**, Sept. 30, Chief Plenty Coups State Park in (406-252-1289)
- **Last Chance Community Powwow**, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds in Helena (406-439-5631 or lastchancepowwow.com)

Valerie Veis: "Through my art, the story unfolds"

Valerie Veis, a Rocky Mountain Front artist living in Fairfield, was awarded a research grant through the First Peoples Fund's Artist in Business Leadership one-year fellowship program.

First Peoples Fund, in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Smithsonian Institution, provided access for Veis to research Chippewa/Ojibwa basketry and beadwork and to review the extensive document archives of the Cultural Resource Center(CRC), in Suitland, MD, this past April.

Veis is an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe of Montana. A non-traditional basket weaver and painter, she was able to explore traditional birch-bark basketry along with the traditional beadwork.

"Viewing the collection of baskets was inspiring both visually and soulfully," Veis said. "This research is the stepping stone to a deeper exploration of my Native roots and an opportunity to embrace traditional Chippewa/Ojibwa basketry."

She predicts that through this experience, "one day I will become a traditional basket weaver."

She also presented to the staff at CRC and NMAI on her work and process. Veis shared images of her latest winter basket that is embellished with beadwork, a skill recently learned from attending beading classes at her local tribal office in Great Falls.

Veis credits the business tools learned through the Montana Arts Council and MAP (Montana Artrepreneur Program) for helping her enhance the professional image of her artwork.

"It is exciting to imagine how this knowledge will impact my art business. I envision my basketry turning in a whole new direction as birch bark baskets meld with the triple weave I know and love. I am curious

to witness the impact porcupine quills and beading will have on my designs – both in basketry and painting."

A florist by trade, she described the opportunity to see all the floral designs in the bead and quill work as "overwhelming."

Veis plans to share the experience, resources and knowledge she learned at NMAI with the Little Shell tribal community and colleagues in Montana. "I am thrilled to share the photos of traditional beadwork along with birch bark baskets that are embellished with quill work."

"I am forever grateful to First Peoples Fund and NAMI for this life-changing opportunity," she adds.

For further information about First Peoples Fund or to apply for support through one of its programs, visit firstpeoplesfund.org or write First Peoples Fund, PO Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709-2977.

To view more of Veis's work, visit montanabaskets.com.



Basket adorned with beadwork by Valerie Veis.

Missoula Writing Collaborative continues Flathead Reservation residency with NEA grant

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu recently approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships, including an Art Works award of \$20,000 to the Missoula Writing Collaborative to fund creative writing residencies on the Flathead Reservation of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

"The NEA Art Works Grant allows young writers on the Flathead Reservation another avenue to express themselves about their lives and their cultures," said Patsy O'Keefe, MWC board chair. "The poems these children write, as a result of the teaching and guidance of the Missoula Writing Collaborative writers, tell stories of family, culture, and experience."

The Missoula Writing Collaborative's NEA Art Works project will bring creative writing instruction to six elementary schools on the Flathead Reservation. Professional writers from the MWC will continue to collaborate with classroom teachers for 12-week residencies with children in Arlee, Dixon, St. Ignatius, Pablo, and Ronan schools.

Each residency includes visits from American Indian writers and artists, and concludes



Young writers line up to read their work during a Flathead Reservation residency. (Photo courtesy of Missoula Writing Collaborative)

with a student anthology and public reading. The collaborative, which was created in 1994, has served approximately 35,000 children in 24 schools in western Montana, ranging from one-room schoolhouses to multi-grade elementary schools, middle schools and high schools.

Four writers — Alex Alviar, Emily Freeman, Caroline Keys, and Rachel Mindell — have journeyed up the Mission and Flathead Valleys to teach in fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms for the past three years, with the support of the NEA Art Works grants.

In addition to individual school readings, MWC held a joint reading Nov. 19, 2015 at Salish Kootenai College, which featured young poets from Arlee, St. Ignatius and Pablo, as well as a translator, Aspen Smith, who translated three student poems from English to Salish.

"Our writers are thrilled to be able to continue this exciting work," says Caroline Patterson, MWC executive director. "Poem by poem, school by school, we are all transformed by the amazing writing that is happening in these schools."

Indian Craft Markets

In addition to sharing crafts at many summer powwows, Native artists also display and sell their works at the following markets:

• **The First Peoples' Market**, July 8-10 at the Montana Folk Festival in Uptown Butte; Indian artists and craftspeople share both deeply traditional crafts and more contemporary artistic expressions rooted in Native American experience. Admission is free to all areas of the festival, including all musical performances and the First Peoples' Market. For more information, visit www.montanafolkfestival.com or call 406-497-6464.

• **Piikuni Blackfeet Artists and Blackfeet Veterans' Memorial Summer Market**, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, through Sept. 30 at the Blackfeet Veterans' Memorial Park in Browning; artists and crafters, food trucks and other vendors share products made in Blackfeet Country. Powwow dancing is on tap at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call 406-845-2102.

• **Art in the Arbor**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays, July 30, and Aug. 20 at the People's Center in Pablo; vendors sell their work; free art and craft activities and Native games are also on tap. Call 406-675-0160 or visit www.peoplescenter.org for details.